

## CHAPTER TWO: SITUATION ANALYSIS

### 2.1 External Situation Analysis

#### 2.1.1 Locality

Matatiele Local Municipality is situated within the jurisdiction of the Alfred Nzo District Municipality, hereinafter referred to as the **ANDM**. **MLM** is bound to the north by Lesotho, to the north east by KwaZulu Natal (KZN) and Elundini Municipality to the south west. Umzimvubu Local Municipality is located to the south of **MLM**. **MLM** incorporates the towns of Matatiele, Cedarville and Maluti. (Please refer to Figure 1 below)

The Alfred Nzo District Municipality (**ANDM**) is one of the six District Municipalities within the Province of Eastern Cape (EC) and stretches from the Drakensberg Mountains in the north, Lesotho to the north west, O.R Tambo District Municipality in the east and south and the Ukhahlamba District Municipality to the east. **ANDM** forms the north eastern boundary of the EC Province and borders onto KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) to the north east.

The **MLM** covers an area of 4352 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes 58 % of the Alfred Nzo District. **MLM** consists of 24 wards.

**MLM** is transversed by the R56 (Regional Road) linking the Elundini Municipality to the West and the Kokstad Municipality in the South West.

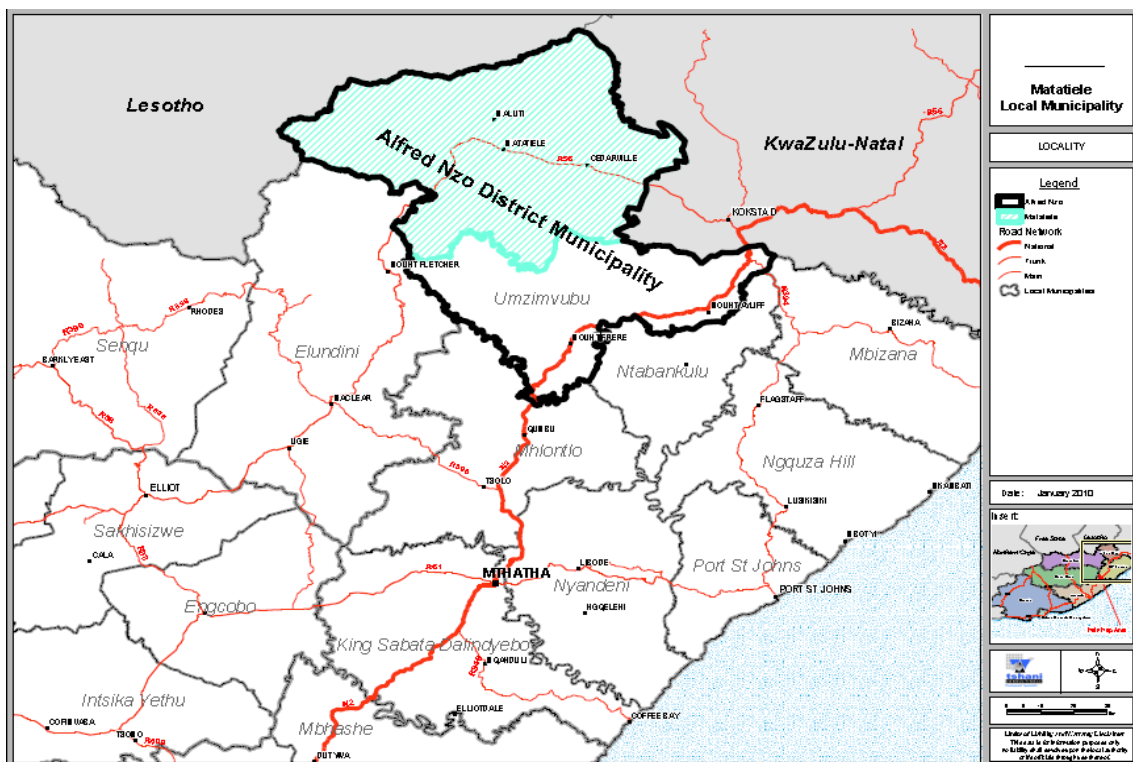


Figure 1: Matatiele, Cedarville and Maluti

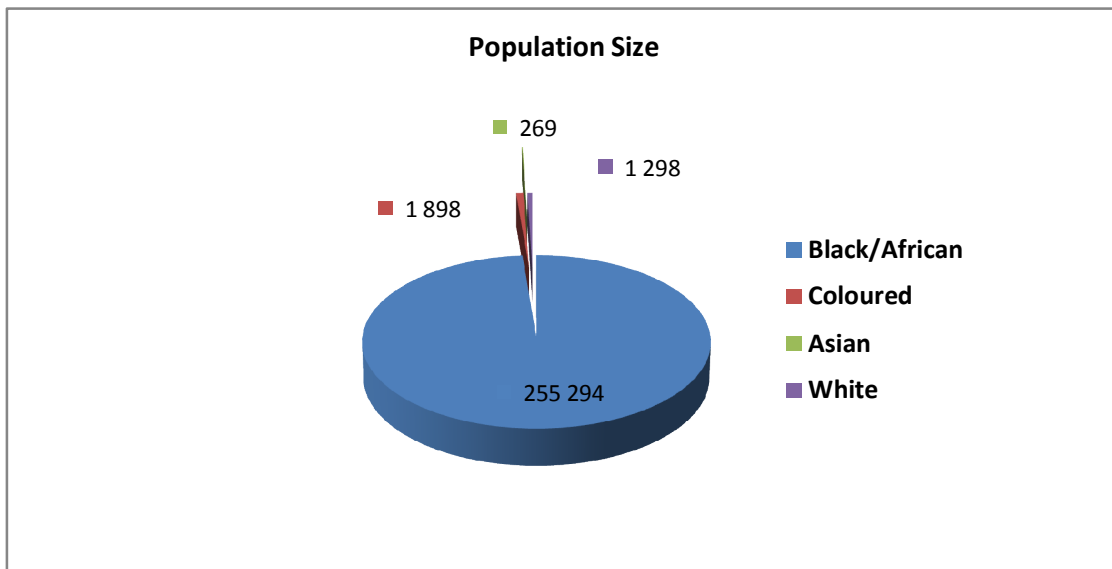
Matatiele Local Municipality (EC144) was established on 1 March 2006. The Municipal area has undergone a number of amendments in terms of provincial

municipal and ward demarcation which have had a profound impact on planning in the area. Prior to 1 March 2006 a municipality known as Matatiele Local Municipality (KZ5a3) comprised the towns of Matatiele and Cedarville and fell within the Sisonke District of Kwazulu Natal. From 1 March 2006, a new Matatiele Local Municipality was established which was incorporated into the Alfred Nzo District of the Eastern Cape. The newly established Matatiele Local Municipality includes the towns of Matatiele, Cedarville and the magisterial district of Maluti which formerly fell under the Umzimvubu Municipality and a rural district management area which formerly fell under the jurisdiction of the Alfred Nzo District Municipality.

### 2.1.2 Demographics

#### Population Size

According to the 2001 census (before the recent demarcation) Matatiele Local Municipality had a population of approximately sixteen thousand two hundred and twenty six (16 226) people with no wards. However, the recent demarcation had a colossal impact on the municipality with the resultant effect being a municipality with no less than twenty four (24) wards and a population of 258 758.



**Figure: 2 Population Size**

**Source: Census Stats SA Analysis 2009**

Figure 2 demonstrates the gigantic growth in population in the municipality as a consequence of the 1 March 2006 demarcations. According to adjusted tables based on this new demarcation, the total estimated population for Matatiele is 259000 people. From Figure 2, it is clear that the African race is the majority.

To add, figure 2 suggests that the population grew more than tenfold as a result of the demarcation. This gigantic growth in population clearly suggests that the municipality is now faced with major challenges in all areas of service delivery,

housing development included. Therefore, clear strategic planning and monitoring cannot be over emphasized in order to counter this scenario.

### Population by Gender

In addition, the gender split is approximated to be forty five percent (45%) male and fifty five percent (55%) female (Figure 3). This disparity in the proportion could well be attributed to the fact that the male counter part still tend to leave the homestead in search of work. Therefore, how the municipality factors this gender split into their service delivery priorities, especially human settlement development, is of essence. How the population and the gender split changes as a result of the impact of the new manufacturing plant in the nearby Elundini municipality still remains to be seen.

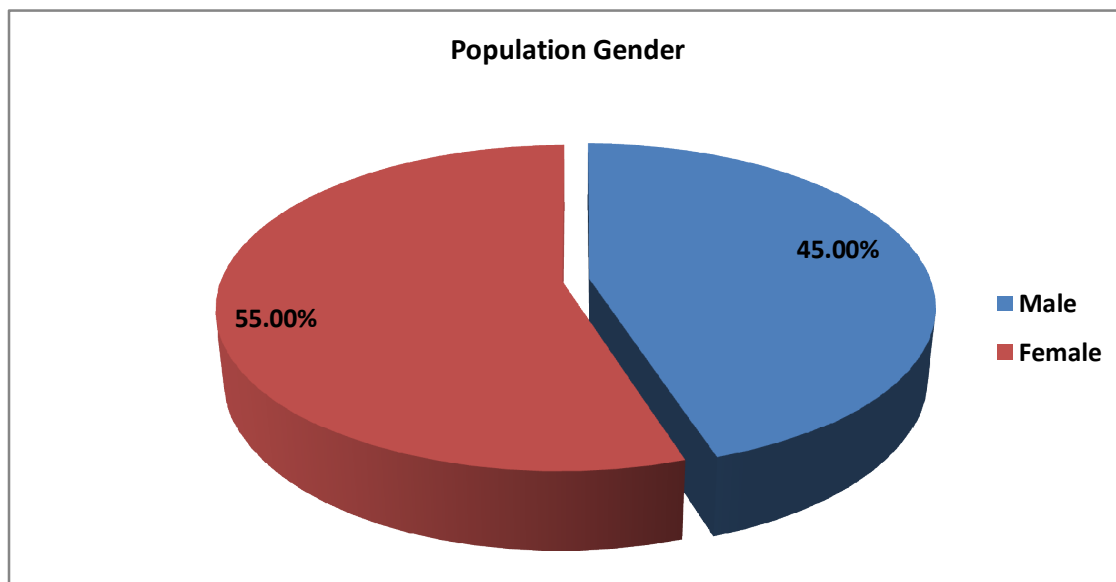


Figure: 3 Population by Gender

Census Stats SA Analysis 2009

### 2.1.3 Natural Environment

#### 2.1.3.1 Rainfall

Average annual rainfall ranges from below 550 mm to more than 1 000 mm, which falls in a typical summer rainfall pattern that commences in October and continues through to April. The highest rainfall is in February (refer to Figure 4).

A rain shadow is experienced in the northern valley area south of Cedarville and Matatiele. This is also where the reliability of the rain is at its lowest and the chances of consistently high crop yields are lowest.

Runoff is exceedingly high in most of the study area because of poor vegetation cover. This has increased the erodibility of the soil.

The average rainfall of some monitoring stations in and around the study area is indicated in Table 1. A more comprehensive list can be found as an addendum.

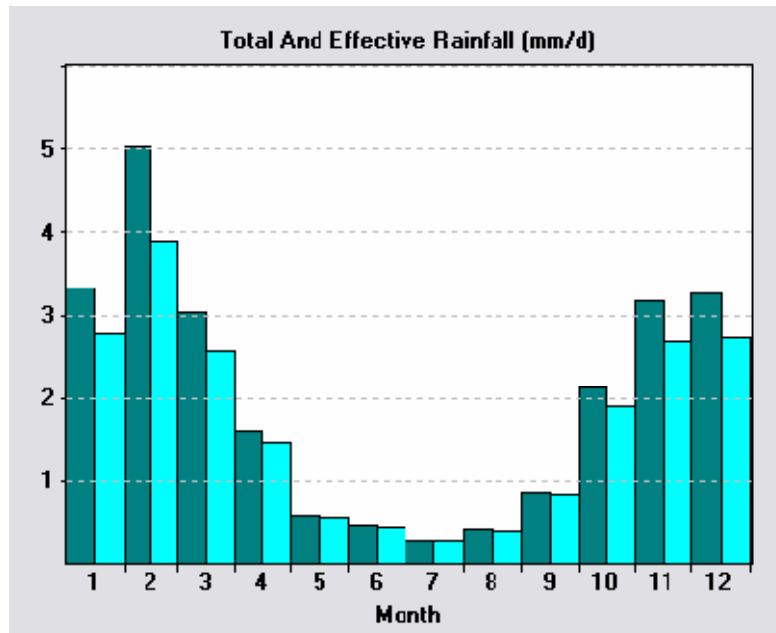


Figure 4: Rainfall

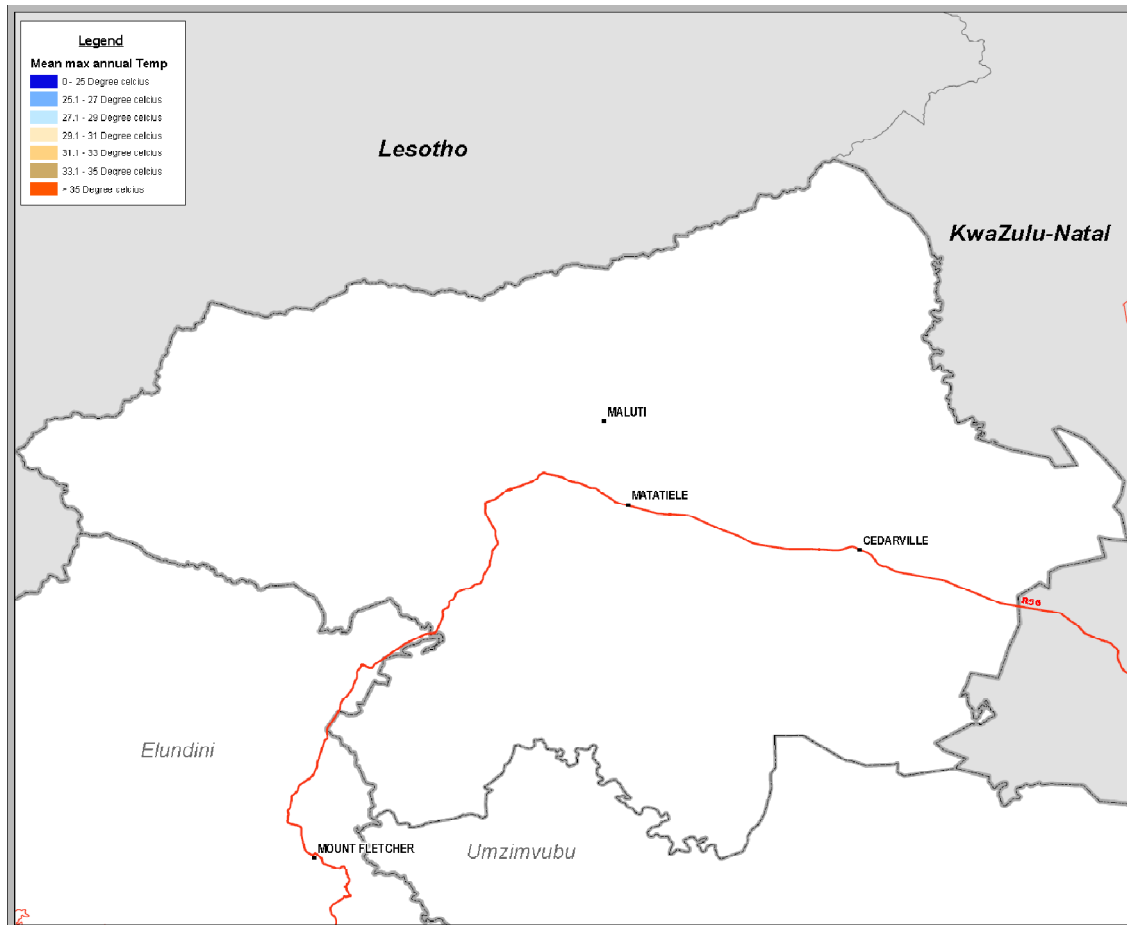
Table 1 Average Annual Rainfall

Station Name	Record years	Latitude	Longitude	MAP mm/y	Altitude msl
Cedarville	93	30° 25"	29° 3"	685	1500
Matatiele	86	30° 20"	28° 49"	682	1510
Mount Fletcher	98	30° 41"	28° 30"	822	1480
Mount Frere	80	30° 54"	28° 59"	835	1120
Mount Ayliff	92	30° 48"	29° 22"	738	1086
Qachas Nek	76	30° 7"	28° 42"	925	2010

### 2.1.3.2 Temperature

The southern portion has a moderate climate with an average maximum in summer of 26°C which then falls to 1°C in mid winter. The average temperature at Matatiele is four degrees colder with an average maximum of 17°C in January which falls to 2°C in June. Minimum temperatures can fall well below zero.

The mountainous areas south of Matatiele and the border region in the north eastern parts can expect frost for more than 75 days. Snow at the latter is common.



### 2.1.3.3 Soils

Soil information is unavailable for most of the municipal area. Deductions, therefore, were made on the basis of geology and general trends found during surveys done by the author on similar geological formation in the Eastern Cape.

Matatiele Municipality is located on Karoo sediments, the south western portion on grey and reddish-brown Adelaide mud and sandstone, and in a north-westerly direction, followed by fine-grained Tarkastad sandstone and mudstone, coarse grained Molteno sandstone and by maroon, green or grey Elliot sediments.

Later intrusions of dolerite are found throughout the municipal area.

Alluvium is found along the Kinira and Tswereka rivers west of Matatiele and north of Cedarville.

The soil types generally associated with these geological formations are as follows:

**Table 2: Soil associations**

Formation	Description	Dominant soil forms
Sedimentary rock (Ecca mud and sandstone)	<p>Shallow greyish brown and yellow-brown soils on partially weathered rock. They may have prominent bleached layers in the upper subsoil. The latter in particular are extremely erodible and should normally not be cultivated. Rock outcrops are common. Much of these soils in the study area is cultivated or was cultivated in the past. According to the Natural Resource Conservation Act and subsequent legislation pertaining to the Eastern Cape, most of the soil in this category should not be cultivated, while some soil forms, only if the slope is less than 12%.</p> <p>Soils on plateaus are sometimes deeper and sandier with neocutanic properties and may have water tables that are perched. Because of their position on the landscape they are less erodible. They are normally arable provided the slope is less than 12%</p>	<p>Glenrosa Cartref Mispah</p> <p>Oakleaf Fernwood Glenrosa</p>
Dolerite	<p>Reddish brown and dark brown soil normally develop on dolerite. Boulders and loose rock are often found. They vary considerably in depth and usually form the high potential soils. They have a clay loam or clayey texture with moderately developed blocky structure that is fairly resistant to erosion, provided that they maintain their vegetation cover. Although the Natural Resource Conservation Act and other legislation will allow most of these soils to be cultivated up to a 20% slope, it is normally recommended that 12% be the upper limit.</p>	Hutton Bonheim Griffin
Alluvium	<p>Alluvial soils are widely found along the major rivers and on the broad valley floor between Matatiele to the east of Cedarville. They consist of sandy and loamy soils that are deep or moderately deep with a granular or poorly developed blocky structure. Because of the even slopes on which they occur, they may have perched water tables in the lower laying topographical units. Because of the even topography the rivers meander and much of the soils have wetland properties (grey</p>	Oakleaf Fernwood Dundee Hutton Clovelly Katspruit

	matrix colours on the subsoil that is gleyed below 500 mm). These are normally high potential soil if not waterlogged. Most of the irrigated land falls in this group.	
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#### 2.1.3.4 Veld and Grazing

Low & Rebelo classed the northern mountain slopes as *Alti Mountain Grassland*, the balance as *Moist Upland Grassland* with *Northeastern Mountain Grassland* in the lower lying valleys of the Tina, Kinira and Mzimvubu rivers.

The present grazing capacity of the study area ranges from 3 hectare per large stock unit (LSU) on the higher rainfall and protected areas to more than 17 hectares per LSU on the degraded areas.

The highest grazing capacity of 5 to 7 occurs around Cedarville and Matatiele. There are large portions of transformed rangeland that is probably also used for grazing for some periods of the year.

Comparing this with the potential as indicated by AGIS, of less than 3 ha/LSU for most of the area, the conclusion is that the present grazing capacity is well below the potential because of prolonged over-utilisation. A rotational grazing system that manages the grazing within the grazing capacity of the veld, can lead to dramatically increased cattle numbers.

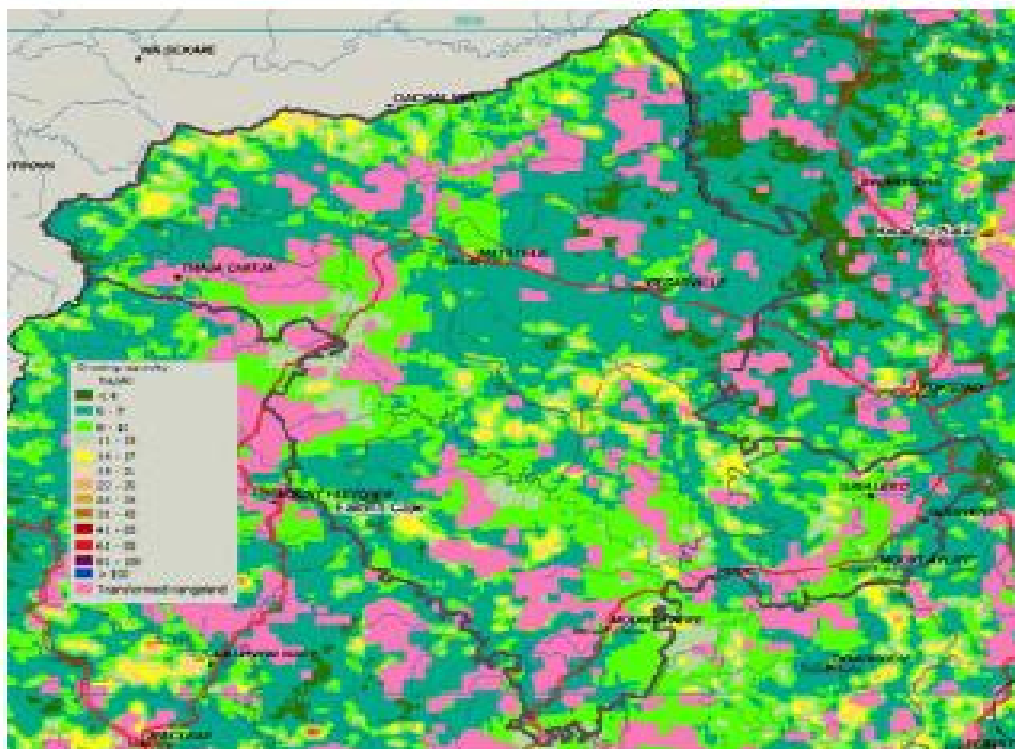


Figure: 5 Veld and Grazing

Source: NDA

## 2.1.4 Land Analysis

### 2.1.4.1 Land Use Management

The Matatiele municipal area is dominated by rural settlements and associated subsistence farming. Agriculture represents the main economic activity in the district at large; however the bulk of commercial agriculture is limited in this Matatiele Municipality. Matatiele Municipality is characterized by significant environmentally sensitive areas, which are threatened by unstructured growth, erosion and limited environmental protection.

Security of land tenure is unclear and the municipality has difficulty with enforcing land use laws. This creates a threat of spontaneous and unstructured land use and this has negative implications on the well-being of the environment as people have a tendency to settle in hazardous and environmentally sensitive areas. Land Claims also pose a threat to land use and proposed development.

The key issue when it comes to land use in the area is land tenure security and land reform. Like most municipalities in the former homelands, Matatiele Municipality has a number of objectives and strategies to tackle this issue. It is the intention of the municipality to promote land ownership as a means to social and economic development and to promote land ownership in the rural areas for housing development. In order to meet these objectives the municipality plans to adopt the following strategies:

- *Formulate a co-ordinated land reform programme indicating priority projects, in consultation with the Department of Land Affairs.*
- *Ensure integration of land reform and housing projects.*
- *Undertake an audit of State owned land.*
- *Undertake study to establish ownership and acquisition of land for housing development in the rural areas.*

### 2.1.4.2 Unmanageable Urbanization

Urbanisation is increasingly becoming an urban crisis in this area. Large masses, as a result of rural poverty relocate to urban centers, Cedarville and Matatiele which are the economic hubs of the municipality. This phenomenon has lead to a significant mushrooming of informal settlements. The migrants normally settle in environmentally sensitive, hazardous and vacant areas. These places under normal circumstances are without proper bulk infrastructure such as sanitation, stormwater and electricity. The settlement of these new urban dwellers adds on to the existing housing and infrastructure backlog in the municipality.

Urbanisation is productive if there is sufficient infrastructure and if job opportunities are available, it also becomes a catalyst for economic development. If however, urbanization is merely a process of transfer of rural poverty to an urban environment, it results to a misery as with the case in this municipal area.



Migration of the population to urban areas is an indicator of misplaced urban and rural policies. Investment in economic growth has been biased toward the capital intensive urban centres.

#### **2.1.4.3 Land Claims**

The Matatiele Municipality suffers from unusually high occurrences of land claims. Almost two thirds of the entire District is under some claim or the other, and the slow pace at which these claims are processed, against the background of a high propensity to institute land claims amongst communities in the District, have all but crippled development opportunities in the District.

Although quite a lot of the productive land in the area has been returned to communal ownership, yet remains highly under-utilized by local communities. In addition, lack of title deeds deters private investment, and long delays at the Deeds Office have become common practice in the municipal area, much to the detriment of investment opportunities. Land ownership has always been a problem in the delivery of housing due to land claims. There is even a lack of land for the implementation of LED projects, resulting in under-expenditure by departments and donors, and leading to loss of investments and its associated spill-over effects. It has also been cited that the delays in land claims and deeds office processing are contributing to land invasions and occupations that further act as an impediment to development in the municipal area. A List of Land Claims is attached in Appendix 4.

In this regard, it is critical for the ANDM and its LMs to:

- *Liaise and engage with Land Claims Commission, Department of Land Affairs (DLA), the Deeds Office and beneficiary communities*
- *To acquire or develop comprehensive information on land ownership data urgently conduct a Land use and management audit, and*
- *Liaise with the department of land affairs to conduct workshops within the district municipality pertaining to the Land Act, land rights and other related issues.*

## 2.2 Analysis in terms of the five (5) KPA'S:

The following Chapter deals with the Situation in terms of the following five (5) KPA's:-

- ***Basic Service Delivery and Infrastructure Investment***
- ***Local Economic Development***
- ***Financial Viability and Financial Management***
- ***Municipal Transformation and Institutional Development***
- ***Good Governance and Community Participation***

### 2.2.1 Basic Service Delivery and Infrastructure Investment

#### 2.2.1.1 Water and Sanitation

The Alfred Nzo District Municipality is the Water Services Authority (WSA) for the Matatiele Local Municipality area of jurisdiction. The District Municipality has developed a WSDP that covers the 2008/2009 to 2012/2013 financial year which is updated annually.

A recent study by the District Municipality aimed to establish RDP standard water and sanitation backlogs and the following table provides an indication of existing backlogs together with the estimated costs of achieving the desired standard.

**Table 3: Water and Sanitation backlogs**

Description	Water Supply	Sanitation
Total number of households	67,954	
H/H served to RDP standard	24485	10292
H/H to be served	43469	57662
Backlog (RDP) standard	63.9 %	84.8 %
Cost per H/H	R6, 000	R3,500
<b>Total Capital Required</b>	<b>R260 814 000</b>	<b>R201 817 000</b>

The backlog of RDP standard water provision in Matatiele is therefore 64 % and the backlog of RDP standard sanitation is 85 %.

Waterborne sanitation is only provided in urban areas. Toilets in rural areas comprise VIP latrines and the bucket system has been totally eradicated. The District Municipality has a rural sanitation programme in place and believes that sanitation targets for 2010 will be met.

Communities in rural areas are still highly dependent on undeveloped water sources and there remains a challenge in meeting the water demand due to source identification. The District Municipality has identified this need and has commissioned a study to report on the implementation of a Rural Bulk Raw Water Supply Scheme for the area.

### Areas of prioritised intervention

- **Facilitate and source additional funding to address backlogs and expedite the provision of water and sanitation in rural areas (WSA)**

#### 2.3.1.1 Water

Figure 6: Water Sources

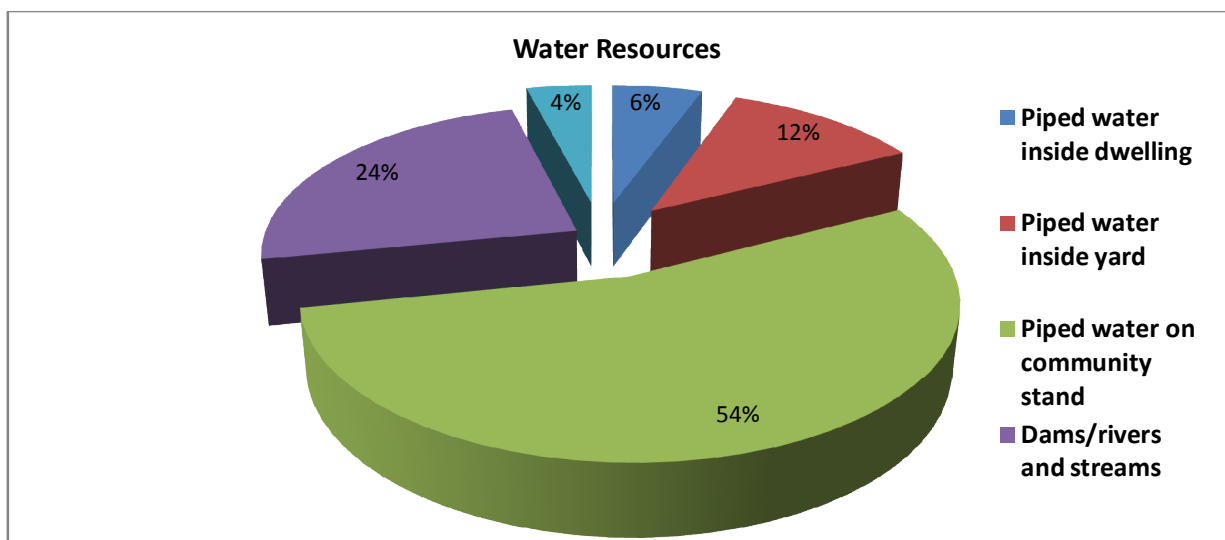
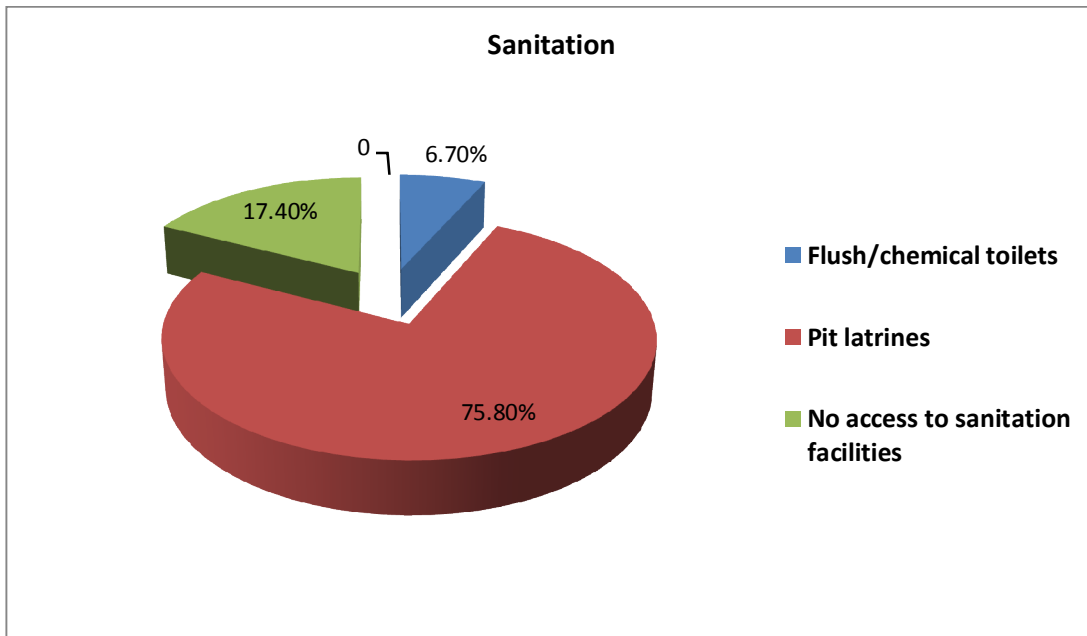


Figure 6 illustrates the various types of water sources that are available to the community. Only six percent (6%) of the population has access to piped water inside their dwelling, whilst twelve percent (12%) has piped water in their yards. This is in line with the provincial average which estimates that approximately fifty-seven percent (57%) of the provincial population has access to piped water.

The remaining seventy-eight percent (78%) obtain water either from spring water, or an alternative water source (the river, rain water, and borehole) or from a community tap. Therefore, reliability of the source becomes a health concern as there are still people obtaining water from dams albeit this represents a minority four percent (4%).

### 2.3.1.2. Sanitation

Figure 7: Type of accessible Sanitation



The above figure portrays the types of access to sanitation per household. The chart shows that there are different levels of access to sanitation in the municipality. For example, 6.7% of the population has access to flush toilets, connected to either sewerage, septic tanks or chemicals and 75.8 % use pit latrines. The bucket system has been eradicated.

On the other hand, 17.4 % have no access to any form of sanitation. This variety in the types and levels of sanitation can be linked to the differing dwelling types within the municipality, where the areas without any form of sanitation represent the rural counterpart of the municipality. Of importance therefore is that the municipality should try and normalize access to sanitation as this is an intricate and important part of sustainable human settlement service delivery.

Sources of water for the municipality include perennial rivers. As a result, bulk water availability is seldom a question. However, poor proper planning for catchments, poor installation of water pipes, lack of maintenance and limited resources and skills are challenges that affect delivery of clean water to the community. The municipal IDP (2007/08) alludes to the fact that most wards in the municipality are affected by supply inefficacies.

Similarly, poor sanitation is an issue in the rural areas. This affects the wards in the municipality especially the rural counterparts. The effect of this is poor hygienic conditions and constraints to economic development and poor quality of life. Sanitation and water are basic requirements for a good standard of living, therefore.

### **2.3.2 Roads and Stormwater**

The provision and maintenance of roads covers the functional areas of the Department of Roads and Transport, the District Municipality and the Matatiele Local Municipality.

The Department of Roads and Transport establishes and maintains National and Provincial roads. It also contributes to economic upliftment of the area through EPWP Programmes.

The Department has allocated R8, 00 million for roads in Matatiele in its 2009/10 budget. During the 2008/09 financial year it is also provided funding for a number of EPWP Programmes which provided work opportunities for 892 people of Matatiele.

The Primary access road which traverses the district is the R56 from Kokstad to Maclear. The condition of the R56 is poor. Other roads of importance are the roads that link the Matatiele area with Lesotho. These roads are particularly important for the development of agriculture and tourism in the area. Currently access to Lesotho is obtained through the Ongeluksnek, Quachasnek or Kholweni Border posts. All access roads to these Border Posts from the Matatiele area are gravel roads, which are not conducive to the economic development of the area.

The District Municipality is responsible for the maintenance of about 130 km of rural access roads throughout the District. The maintenance of other access roads is performed by Matatiele Local Municipality who are responsible for maintaining roads within the Municipal area and ensuring that storm water is effectively managed.

The Municipality does not have a roads infrastructure storm water or pavement management system and maintenance is carried out as and when required.

#### **Areas of prioritised intervention**

- **Develop a storm water / pavement management system**
- **Develop a road maintenance plan**
- **Facilitate the provision, upgrading and maintenance of roads; (DoR & T)**
- **Source funding for the resurfacing of streets; and**
- **Facilitate the improvement of road infrastructure**

### **2.3.3 Electricity and Energy**

Eskom is the licensed distributor of electricity in the majority of the municipal area with the exception of the town of Matatiele where Matatiele Local Municipality is the licensed distributor.

According to statistics provided to ANDM by ESKOM, it is estimated that only 25 % of households in the District have access to electricity and that the backlog for the whole District is 75 % which translates to approximately 95 000 households.

The electrification of housing by Matatiele Local Municipality is ongoing, but not at the desired pace, primarily because national demand for electricity has outstripped the available supply which is having a negative impact on meeting the set targets.

Consequently the Statistics South Africa Community Survey 2007 indicates that the community is heavily dependent on alternative energy sources with 62 % of the community relying on an alternate source for lightning, 86 % for heating and 75 % for cooking.

#### **Areas for prioritised intervention**

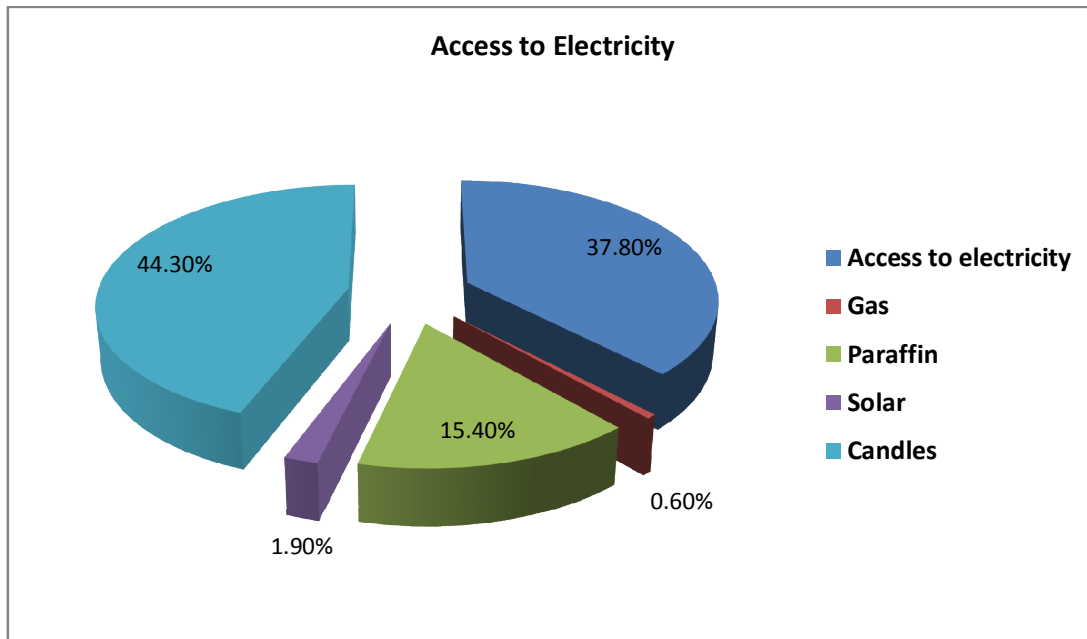
- **Upgrade existing sub-station feeding Matatiele;**
- **Investigate means for rural communities to access alternative free basic energy; and**
- **Facilitate to accelerate access to electricity and lobby for funding to address backlogs for the provision of universal energy in rural areas by 2012 (ESKOM / DMF)**

NODE	PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE									
	Roads		Water		Sanitation		Telephone		Electricity	
	Access	Quality	Access	Quality	Access	Quality	Access	Quality	Access	Quality
Matatiele	Full	Good	Full	Good	Full	Fair	Partial	Fair	Full	Fair
Maluti	Full	Poor	Partial	Poor	Partial	Poor	Partial	Fair	Full	Fair
Cedarville	Fully	Fair	Full	Good	Partial	Fair	Partial	Fair	Full	Fair
Rural Areas	Partial	Poor	Partial	Poor	None	N/A	Partial	Poor	Partial	Fair

### 2.3.3.1 Electricity

The following chart illustrates the type of access to electricity for households in Matatiele.

Figure 8: Access to electricity



Source: Census 2007

As depicted in figure 8, 37.8% of the population has access to the electricity, whilst only 0.6% uses gas. The remaining 61.6% rely solely on alternative sources viz. paraffin, candles, solar or other source of energy.

### 2.3.4 Citizen and Community Services

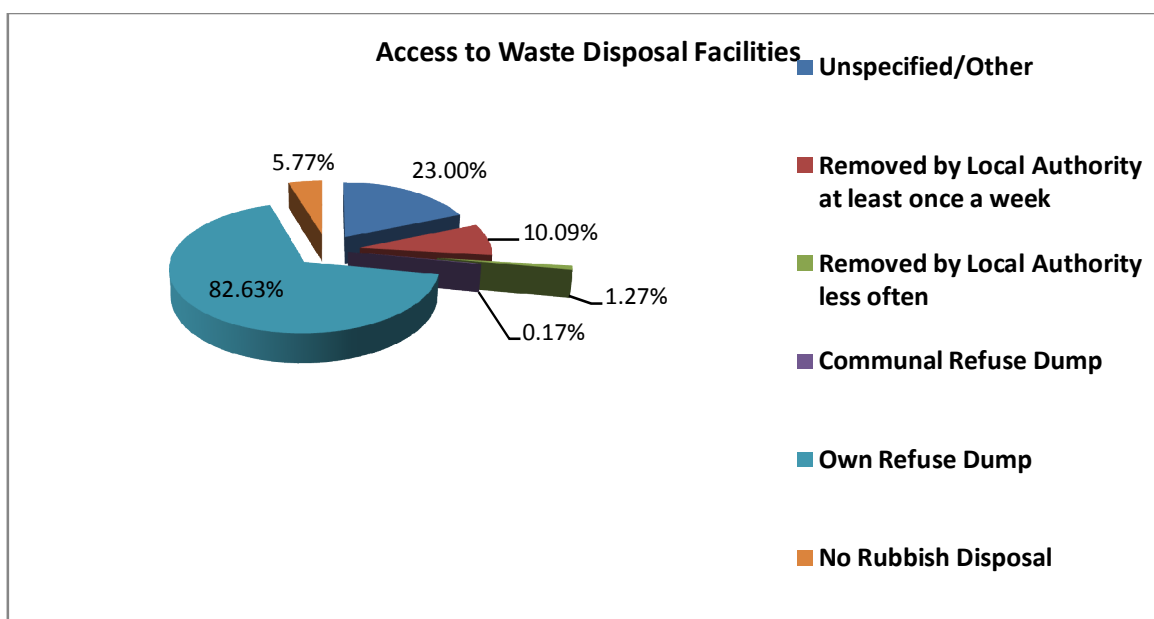
#### 2.3.4.1 Solid Waste Management

According to the Statistics South Africa Community Survey 2007, only 10% of households in Matatiele have access to a weekly refuse removal service. 82 % of households make use of their own refuse dumps which implies a high level of indiscriminate dumping and little regard for the impact on the environment.

The Matatiele Local Municipality is responsible for waste management in their area of jurisdiction. The Municipality collects household refuse from all three urban areas on a weekly basis, but provides no rural service.

A newly developed and licensed waste disposal site came into operation in Matatiele in 2008. This site has the capacity to accommodate all the waste from the urban areas for at least the next 15 years. There is also an unlicensed site in Cedarville which is not designed or operated according to DWAF's minimum requirements. Operation of the new site has been contracted out and the contract makes provision for the closure of old landfill sites.

Figure 9: Access to Waste Disposal Facilities



Source: Census 2007

The Alfred Nzo District Municipality commissioned the development of an Integrated Waste Management Plan for the District in 2005 which aimed to resolve its waste related challenges. A critical limitation that occurred during this study was the revised demarcation of the municipal boundaries which resulted in the Matatiele / Cedarville area being excluded. This plan is currently being revised to include these areas and is due for completion in March 2009. **MLM is also in process of introducing an integrated waste management system that includes a recycling component that will contribute to local economic development** and cleaning of the environment.

#### Areas of prioritised intervention

- **Licensing of the unlicensed site at Cedarville**
- **Implement the local Integrated Waste Management System**
- **Obtain a copy of the District WMP and coordinate initiatives; and**
- **Investigate the expansion of refuse removal services and facilities to prevent indiscriminate dumping in rural areas**

#### 2.3.5 Municipal Health Services

Municipal health services are a district function. Alfred Nzo District Municipality is therefore responsible for water quality monitoring; food control; waste management monitoring; health surveillance of premises; surveillance and prevention of communicable disease, excluding immunizations; vector control; environmental pollution control; disposal of the dead; chemical safety but excluded port health, malaria control and the control of substances.



### 2.3.6 Disaster Management

The District Municipality is responsible for the provision of Disaster Management and Fire Services in the District. The Municipality has a Disaster Management plan in place to effectively manage disasters which stem primarily from natural causes (tornadoes, storms and winds etc.). Services are rendered from the central disaster management centre in Mount Ayliff and a satellite centre in Maluti which serves the Matatiele Local Municipality.

### 2.3.7 Telecommunications

According to the Statistics South Africa Community Survey 2007, only 55% of the population has a telephone or cellular phone, the latter being the most popular. The majority of the area has poor or no network coverage. Mountainous areas are particularly problematic. This lack of network was identified by the Department of Health as being a critical challenge which hampers the effective functioning of their clinics.

#### Areas of prioritised intervention

- **Facilitate improved telecommunication networks (fixed and cellular networks) (ANDM and MLM).**

### 2.3.8 Public Transport

Despite some investments in new roads and maintenance there remain local communities who are isolated and disconnected due to poor road infrastructure. This has significant consequences in terms of local economic development as well as service delivery, especially accessibility to emergency ambulance services.

Transport whether motorized or non-motorized faces many challenges within the Municipal area. These can be summarized as follows:

- *Poor conditions of roads*
- *Inadequate pedestrian signs and markings and off loading areas especially within the few urban areas*
- *Limited traffic calming measures within areas of high accidents*
- *An absence of traffic lights, especially at major intersections*
- *Unavailability of adequate public transport facilities especially for the disabled*
- *Lack of cooperation between public transport operators and the municipal authorities*
- *Lack of institutional capacity at Local and District Municipal level to manage transport planning and implementation*
- *Outdated / non-existent information at the taxi registrar*
- *Lack of pedestrian and non-motorized transport facilities*

During the 2008/09 financial year, the Department of Roads and Transport did initiate some rural transport initiatives including:

- *The Shova Kalula bicycle project which benefited a number of schools in the District*
- *The AB 350 which established 16 busses on various routes in Matatiele*
- *Scholar transport was operated by a number of schools in the Municipal area.*

#### **Areas of prioritised intervention**

- **Improve pedestrian signs and markings and off loading areas especially in the urban areas.**
- **Investigate traffic calming measures within areas of high accidents**
- **Investigate provision of traffic lights, especially at major intersections**
- **Facilitate the provision of adequate public transport facilities especially for the disabled**
- **Improve cooperation between public transport operators and the municipal authorities**
- **Build and improve institutional capacity at Local and District Municipal level to manage transport planning and implementation; and**
- **Create and update information in respect of the taxi registrar**

#### **2.3.8 Airstrips**

Despite funding earmarked for this purpose, the Airstrip at Matatiele was not upgraded as intended by the Department of Roads and Transport during the 2008/09 financial year, due to a problem around land usage.

The airstrip at Cedarville also needs to be upgraded,

#### **Area of intervention**

- **Resolve the land usage obstacle and approach DR & T to prioritise the airstrip at Matatiele and Cedarville for the 2010/11 financial year.**

#### **2.3.9 Health**

The Eastern Cape Department of Health is responsible for the provision of health services in the Municipal area. Health services incorporate awareness, prevention, curative and rehabilitative services.

The following health care facilities exist in Matatiele:

- *1 District Hospital (Tayler Bequest Matatiele Hospital)*
- *2 TB Hospital (Khotsong TB Hospital)*
- *Maluti Community Health Centre*
- *17 Clinics*

- *2 Mobile clinics*

Substantial inroads have been made in terms of the provision of health care facilities including:

- *The Khotsoeng TB Hospital has been upgraded to accommodate multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB patients*
- *The Maluti Community Health Centre which was constructed in 1978 is currently in process of being extended and renovated. Funding is provided on the Departments budget to continue with this projects in the 2009/10 financial year*
- *12 of the clinics were originally mud structures which have been upgraded in the last few years*
- *There are an additional two clinics being built in Mparane and Madlangala.*
- *All clinics are supported by Community Health workers and Clinic Committees and a number of clinic gardens have been established.*

Other significant programmes of the Department include:

- *A ISRDP in the Maluti sub-district which aims to eradicate poverty in the Masupa and Madlangala areas together with other sector Departments*
- *Saving Mothers Saving Babies Project*
- *Integrated nutrition programme*

There remain significant challenges in the provision of health services including:

- *The provision of facilities falls short of the Departments desired norms of providing all inhabitants of the municipality with access to at least a primary health care facility within a radius of 5 km that has the capacity to serve between 8000 – 12000 people. This is largely attributable to the rural nature of the area.*
- *All facilities are short staffed and the vacancy rate is on average 60 %. This is attributable to a high staff turnover and a lack of suitable affordable accommodation for staff*
- *The District Hospital has 200 beds, but no outpatient, casualty, trauma or maternity sections.*
- *Clinics are unable to render the full range of services at this stage and many are hampered by a lack of communication with no telecommunication network within the area*
- *Some clinics are underutilized and this is primarily attributable to the perception that the aim of clinics is to provide curative and not preventative services.*

### 2.3.10 HIV & AIDS

HIV/AIDS continue to pose a major challenge for the people of South Africa and the Eastern Cape.

According to the Department of Health, the HIV/AIDS infection rate has stabilised in the District. HIV/AIDS nevertheless remains a challenge and the Department is actively concentrating on the management of antiretroviral treatment of infected people. There is a high level of TB in the region which is commonly associated with HIV/AIDS and the Department is also focusing its attention on the management of TB.

Although the primary health care facilities offer HIV/AIDS testing and counseling services, there is a shortage of ARV treatment sites.

Municipal planning must take cognisance of the needs of people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. The Municipality has established a Local AIDS Council.

#### **Areas of prioritised intervention**

- **Support the functionality of the Local AIDS Council**

### 2.3.11 Community Safety

In the past, crime prevention and by implication community safety was the exclusive domain of the SAPS. The 1996 Constitution introduced a fundamental change to the role played by municipalities in the management of crime and safety in South Africa by requiring of them to provide a safe and healthy environment for the communities within their areas of jurisdiction. The South African Police Service Act as amended made provision for the establishment of municipal police services and community police forums and boards.

Crime has the potential to impact negatively on the local economic development of the Municipal area, and for this reason it is imperative that the Municipality play an active role in ensuring the safety of their community. As in all areas the Matatiele Municipal area is also affected by crime. An analysis of crime tendencies at the three urban police stations revealed that the following crimes are most common:

- *Assault (GBH)*
- *Burglary at residential premises*
- *Stock theft*
- *Other theft*
- *Shoplifting*

It was also noted that crime incidents are highest in Maluti and lowest in Cedarville.

#### **Areas of prioritised intervention**

- **Lobby for increased visibility of SAPS in Maluti and Matatiele towns**
- **Create awareness around Police forums; and**
- **Lobby for additional police stations of satellite police units**

### 2.3.11 Community Facilities

#### 2.3.11.1 Sport and Recreation Facilities

The provision of sports and recreational facilities has been directly associated with the development of a health society and plays an important role in the development of our youth. The high levels of youth within the community warrant that specific attention be given to the development of sport and recreation initiatives by all Municipalities and within the district and the Provincial Department of Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation.

There are 3 formal sport stadiums with limited facilities in the urban areas which are in use by the community. All facilities are maintained as and when required, but require upgrading.

#### Areas of prioritised intervention

- Upgrade sport stadiums and develop a maintenance plan (DSRAC / MLM);
- Facilitate the development sports and recreational infrastructure (DSRAC/MLM)

#### 2.3.11.2 Community Halls

There are approximately 9 Community halls within the Municipal area that are available for use by the community. The condition of the majority of these facilities is fair.

The table below gives a reflection on the locations of the community halls in each ward:

NO	FACILITY	WARD	VILLAGE
	Lagrange Community Hall	8	
	Nchodu Community Hall	3	
	Mvenyane Community Hall (Rural)	21	
	Mzingisi Community Hall (Urban)	21	
	Khauwe Community Hall	11	
	Pontseng Community Hall	11	
	Cedarville Town Hall	21	
	Lunda Community Hall	10	
	Matatiele Town Hall	19	
	Mangolong Community Facility	23	
	Mapfontein Community Facility	11	

	Hillside Community Facility	22	
	Laphumilanga Community Facility	17	
	Nkau Community Facility	12	
	Dalibhunga Community Facility	21	
	Mgubo Pre-School	17	
	Lugada Pre-School	15	
	Belhesda Pre-School	23	
	Ditichereng Pre-School	14	
	Zwelitsha Pre-School	10	
	Mafube Pre-School	8	
	Sehlabeng Pre-School	9	
	Gudlintaba Pre-School	4	
	Lubaleko Pre-School	5	
	Mpontshongweni Pre-School	9	
	Sijoka Pre-School	16	
	Dengwana Pre-School	10	
	Dikamoreng Pre-School	13	
	Mapoliseni Pre-School	14	
	Kutwana Pre-School	6	
	Jabavu Pre-School	6	
	Mablawni Pre-School	7	
	Maluti Bus Rank and Public Toilets	1	
	Madibong Community Hall	2	
	Nokwezi Community Hall	20	
	Khubetsoana Community Hall	14	
	Koetliso Pre-School	2	
	Outspan Pre-School	6	
	Ntlola Pre-School	3	

	Mnyamaneni Community Hall	6	
	Mbizeni Pre-School	18	
	Prospect Pre-School	17	
	Queens Mercy Pre-School	12	
	Masakala Community Hall	20	
	Sigoga Sports Field	17	
	Itsokolele Sports Field/Stadium	20	
	North End Sports Field/Stadium	19	
	Cedarville Sports Field/Stadium	21	
	Maluti Sports Field (College)	1	
	Matatiele Municipal Swimming Pool	19	

#### **Areas of prioritised intervention**

- **Develop a MTEF community hall maintenance plan and budget**
- **Development utilisation plan to maximise effective use; and**
- **It expressed as a need during WBP lobby for funding for construction of Community Halls in wards where need have been identified**

#### **2.3.11.3 Libraries**

Library services are a provincial competency that is frequently performed on an agency basis by local municipalities. Matatiele has two libraries; one in Maluti and one in Matatiele. The library in Matatiele is a public library which is managed by the Matatiele Local Municipality in terms of a service level agreement with the Province. There is no library service in rural areas.

#### **Areas of prioritised intervention**

- **Investigate the possibility of a mobile rural library; and**
- **Facilitate the development of library infrastructure.**

#### **2.3.11.4 Cemeteries**

Municipal cemeteries satisfy the existing service demand but there is urgent need to expand current capacity and ensure that all communities have access to adequate burial facilities. Cemeteries also need to be secured in order to ensure preservation of heritage and prevent vandalism of graves and tombstones.

##### **Areas of prioritised intervention**

- **Identify rural cemeteries (238 villages) to be fenced and maintained;**
- **Look at options to expand current capacity or identify new site in Matatiele, Cedarville and Maluti (LUMS and Environmental Impact Assessment where necessary); and**
- **Investigate the provision of extended cemetery services to ensure that entire area has access to services**

#### **2.3.12 Housing**

The backlog of housing is enormous in Matatiele, the backlog occurs mainly in the traditional areas as well as the informal housing settlements found in and around towns. A continuous flow of people from rural to urban areas . urbanization . has vast implications on the housing backlog. Housing delivery is hindered by red tape bureaucracy in accessing funds and there is a lack in the variety of alternatives when it comes to housing projects within housing policies. The erection of houses is also affected by expenses related to the delivery of materials because of the geographic location. The rate at which houses are built is relatively slow and the houses are prone to disaster. Housing delivery is affected by issues such land invasion and non-conformity to approval standards. The provision of formal housing for low and middle income residents is a core function of provincial and national government, with local municipalities being spaces where implementation takes place. Within the urban areas, housing development is generally occurring, but within the rural or communal areas, the provision of housing has still not been addressed.

When it comes to housing and housing delivery the Matatiele area stands to an advantage because the capacity in terms of skilled and qualified builders is available. The IDP also reveals that the people are willing to be actively involved in housing programmes. It is predicted that with these advantages emerging building material suppliers may grow stronger and ultimately impact on the economic growth and job creation. Housing growth/subsidies by National Department of Housing and Provincial Government present an opportunity to improve housing delivery through access of social grants. Public participation is an important component of housing delivery and fortunately as already mentioned above the people are generally willing to participate.

##### **2.3.12.1 Settlement**

The municipality consists of two distinct types of settlements viz. a small urban settlement surrounded by a large rural hinterland with the rural areas being primarily residential in character over agricultural. The majority of the populace lives in rural areas.



### **2.3.12.2 Land**

According to the Matatiele IDP 2007/8, the municipality is presented with some clear advantages regarding access to land. Consequently, access to land is not a major issue. Availability of land use regulations, and adherence thereto, together with political determination, have over the years assisted with speedy access to land. However, there are still some problems with relating to land. Some of these include the lack of clarity regarding ownership of some portions of land and apparent failure to enforce land use by laws to the required extent. Also, growths in spontaneous land uses and land claims have recently emerged as challenges.

### **2.3.12.3 Housing**

Whereas the municipality has managed to develop a few housing projects, the housing backlog is still enormous. This backlog occurs mainly in the traditional areas as well as in the informal housing settlements found in and around towns. Reasons for the backlog may include the steady pace of urbanization that the municipality is experiencing. In turn the municipality has a challenge of meeting the housing needs of these communities.

#### **2.3.12.4 Current Housing Situation**

##### **2.3.12.4.1 Housing Need**

The housing need is calculated taking into account the estimates of people in informal and back yard dwellings, the municipal waiting list and the current rural housing needs. The approximate housing need is estimated at five thousand (5 000) units. Naturally, since the municipality is mainly rural and has a high percentage of unemployment, the greater percentage of the housing need is for affordable housing units.

##### **2.3.12.4.2 Housing Conditions and Type**

The existing housing stock for the affordable housing sector is in a fairly good condition. Citing the previously contractor built project linked housing subsidy scheme in Area C, as a case. All the houses are complete with no critical quality issues to date. This is also true for the middle to high income housing stock.

Whilst the incidence of backyard shacks and informal settlements in the town does occur, it is to a very limited degree.

##### **2.3.12.4.3 Land Availability**

Although there are still vast tracks of under utilized land, no studies have been carried out to date to determine the future use and the extent of the land. Therefore, the amount of land that is still freely available for housing cannot be quantified.

### 2.3.12.5 Current Housing Projects

Table 4: Housing Projects

PROJECT TYPE	LOCATION	WARD	NO OF UNITS	PROJECT STATUS		
				PREPARATION	DESIGN	IMPLEMENTATION
People's Housing processes	Matatiele	19	306			_____
	Matatiele - Harry Gwala	20	500		_____	

The municipality has a few projects underway. There is the 306 project. This project is almost complete with only about twelve (12) houses to complete. Recently, there has been a problem relating to the location of the project. As a result, it has recently been discovered that a portion of the project is subject to flooding and two houses were found with cracks. The Department and the municipality are currently resolving this problem, and engineering solutions to address the cracks were implemented.

Also, there is the Harry Gwala Park ext, where infrastructure is currently being installed. However, this project is marred by serious challenges and has been stalled. The challenges arose from a misunderstanding between the implementing agent, the department and the municipality regarding the roles and responsibilities.

### 2.3.12.6 Planning and Housing Projects

Table 5: Planning and Housing Projects

PROJECT TYPE	LOCATION (Area)/ Project Title	WARD	FINANCIAL YEAR				
			2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
In situ upgrading / Formalisation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Subsidy Housing	Maluti 500	1					
Middle income housing	Matatiele 500 units	19					
	Matatiele	19					

	75 units						
	Matatiele 600 units	19					
High income Housing	Matatiele Baxton Park Ext, 350 units	19					
Rental housing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Social Housing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Special needs Housing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tourist/Holiday Accommodation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rural Housing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other (Specify)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

The above table shows the housing projects that the municipality envisages embarking on according to category. The projects include the Maluti subsidy housing 500 units, Matatiele middle income 500 units, Matatiele middle income 75 units, Matatiele Baxton Park Extension 350 units.

As reflected, the municipal planning is currently focused on the ward 19 being the town of Matatiele. This is precisely because of the demand arising from the fact that the town is major economic hub in the municipality. Also, this could be an indication that in so far as housing development is concerned, the municipality has not started to plan for the wall to wall municipality.

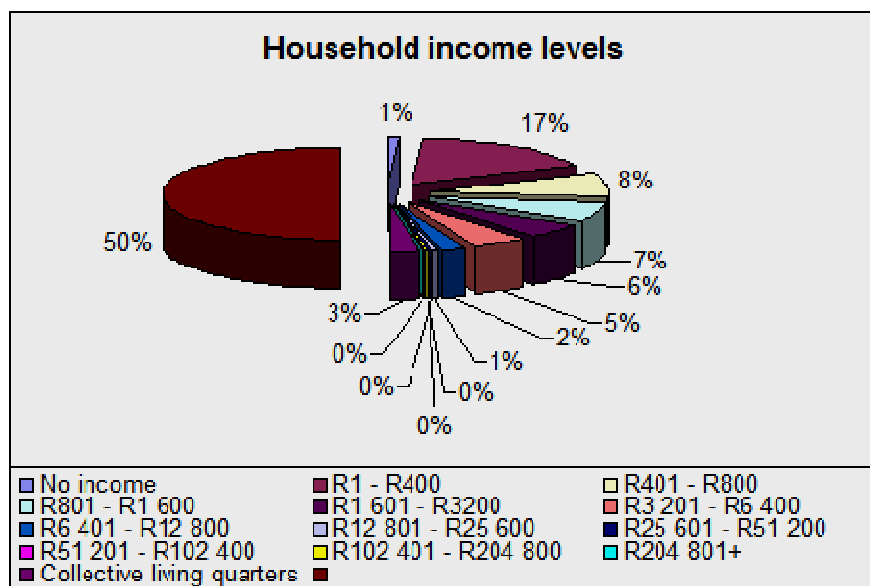
Also, it becomes interesting to note that the municipality has to date not embarked on the other categories of housing. This becomes a challenge as the lack of variety stifles choice and thereby efficiency in the housing delivery system.

Being a rural municipality, it is even a greater concern that the municipality has not yet planned for rural housing.

## 2.4 LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### 2.4.1 Income and Employment

Figure 10: Household Income levels



Source: census 2001 converted data tables: municipal boundaries 2005 (Version: DPLG 091205)

Figure 10 displays the household income levels in the municipality. This income includes all categories of people, employed, unemployed, looking for work etc. in Matatiele. This reflects income before tax i.e. gross income. The statistics indicate that an overwhelming fifty percent (50 %) of the population has an income below four hundred rand per month, whilst another seventeen percent of the population earn below three thousand two hundred rand (R3 200.00) per month.

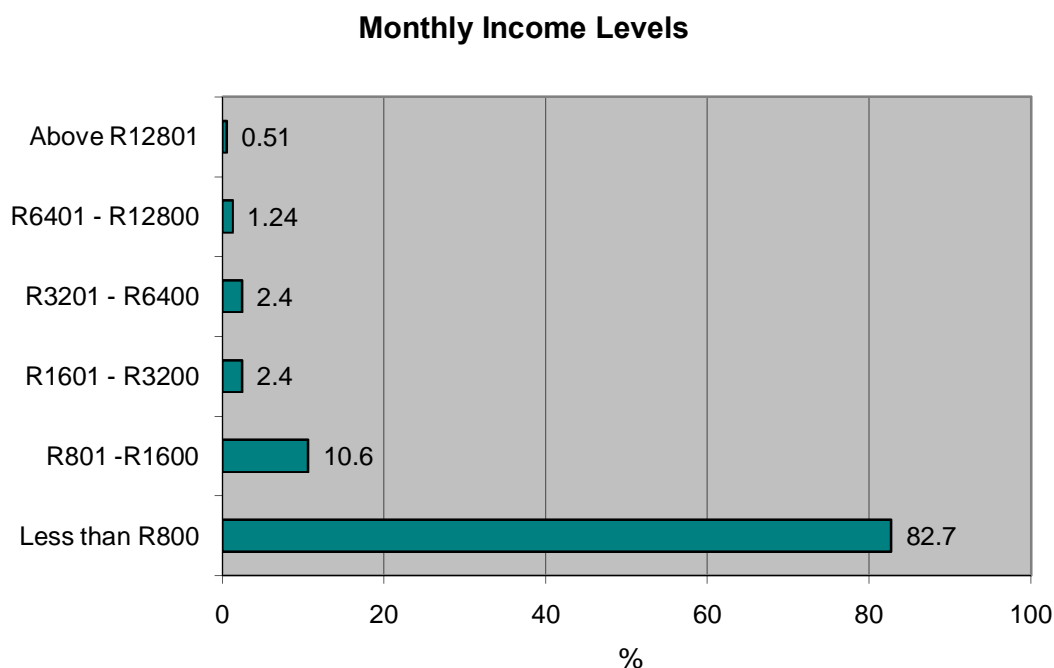
The remaining smaller percentages reflect income of above the three thousand two hundred per year threshold. Collectively, it can be summed up that this group represents a meager thirty three percent (33 %). However although these people are above three thousand two hundred, none earn above twelve thousand rand (R12 000.00) per month.

Affordability is an issue in the municipality; low levels of affordability are in line with the low literacy levels and lower standards of education discussed above. Therefore, it is pertinent that the municipality means begins to impact on the income levels through effective skills relevant skills development and literacy programmes.

### 2.4.2 Household Income Levels

Income levels within the Municipal area very low. 67.3 % of the economically active population does not generate an income. Only 6.5% of the economically active population has an income of more than R1601.00 per month. Municipal planning needs to focus strongly on local economic development initiatives that will enable the community to generate an income.

Figure 11: Monthly Income levels



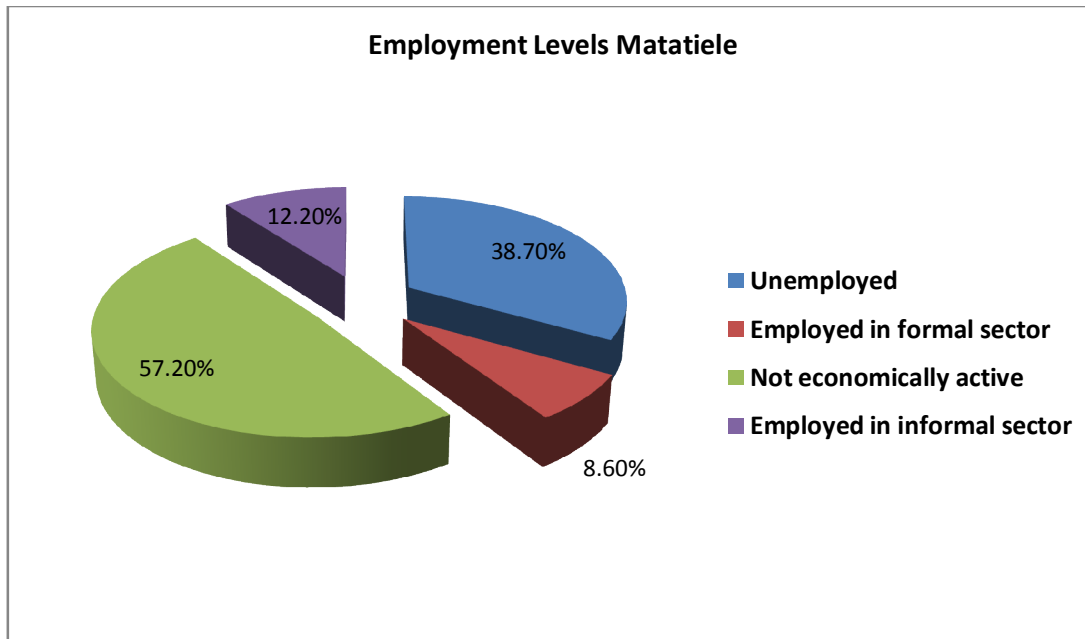
### 2.4.3 Poverty Levels

Increasing levels of absolute poverty have been recorded in the Eastern Cape and 74 % of the people of the Eastern Cape live below the poverty line of R800 or less a month. Poverty levels in the Alfred Nzo District are higher than the Provincial norm at 82.3 %. Poverty levels within Matatiele Local Municipality are 82.7 % which is higher than the Provincial norm but on a par with the District norm. High poverty levels imply a high dependency on social assistance in the form of grants. Municipal planning needs to focus strongly on poverty alleviation mechanisms.

### 2.4.4 Employment Levels and Trends

The Matatiele Local Municipality is characterized by low levels of employment and a high percentage of people who are not economically active. This in turn accounts for the high poverty levels and low income levels. High unemployment rates impact negatively on municipalities as low affordability levels generally result in a poor payment rate for services. Matatiele Local Municipality's unemployment rate is estimated to be 38.7%.

Figure 12: Employment levels Matatiele Local Municipality



Source: Census 2007

The Eastern Cape Province derives income from three sectors namely:

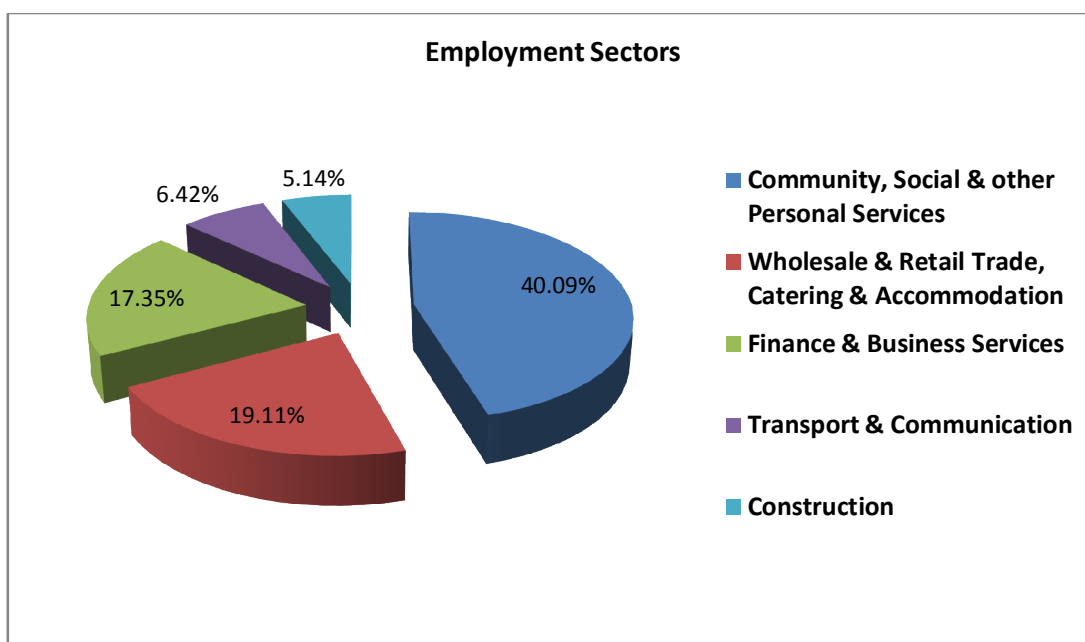
- *The Primary sector made up by agriculture, forestry and fishing industry*
- *The Secondary sector dominated by transport, construction, food industry and wholesale industry*
- *The Tertiary sector dominated by community and public sector services*

On Provincial and District level employment is dominated by the tertiary sector. Provincial and District trends are reflected in Matatiele Local Municipality where the public sector or community services accounts for the majority of specified jobs (40.09%). This sector is an unlikely base for employment expansion.

Wholesale and retail trade which are secondary activities constitute the second highest employment sector (19.11%), but it is doubtful whether this sector will expand significantly as commercial and business activities are confined to urban centres of Matatiele and to a smaller extent Cedarville. This limits the majority of the rural population from finding work in these sectors. Business activities in other areas are confined to rural supply stores and general dealers which do not contribute significantly to the employment levels in the district.

Primary activities namely agriculture, forestry and fishing only account for 2.15 % of the jobs in the District, despite the fact that agriculture is the most dominant activity. It is assumed that the subsistence nature of agriculture in the District is the reason why the sector does not reflect as a significant employment sector.

**Figure 13: Employment sectors: Matatiele Local Municipality**



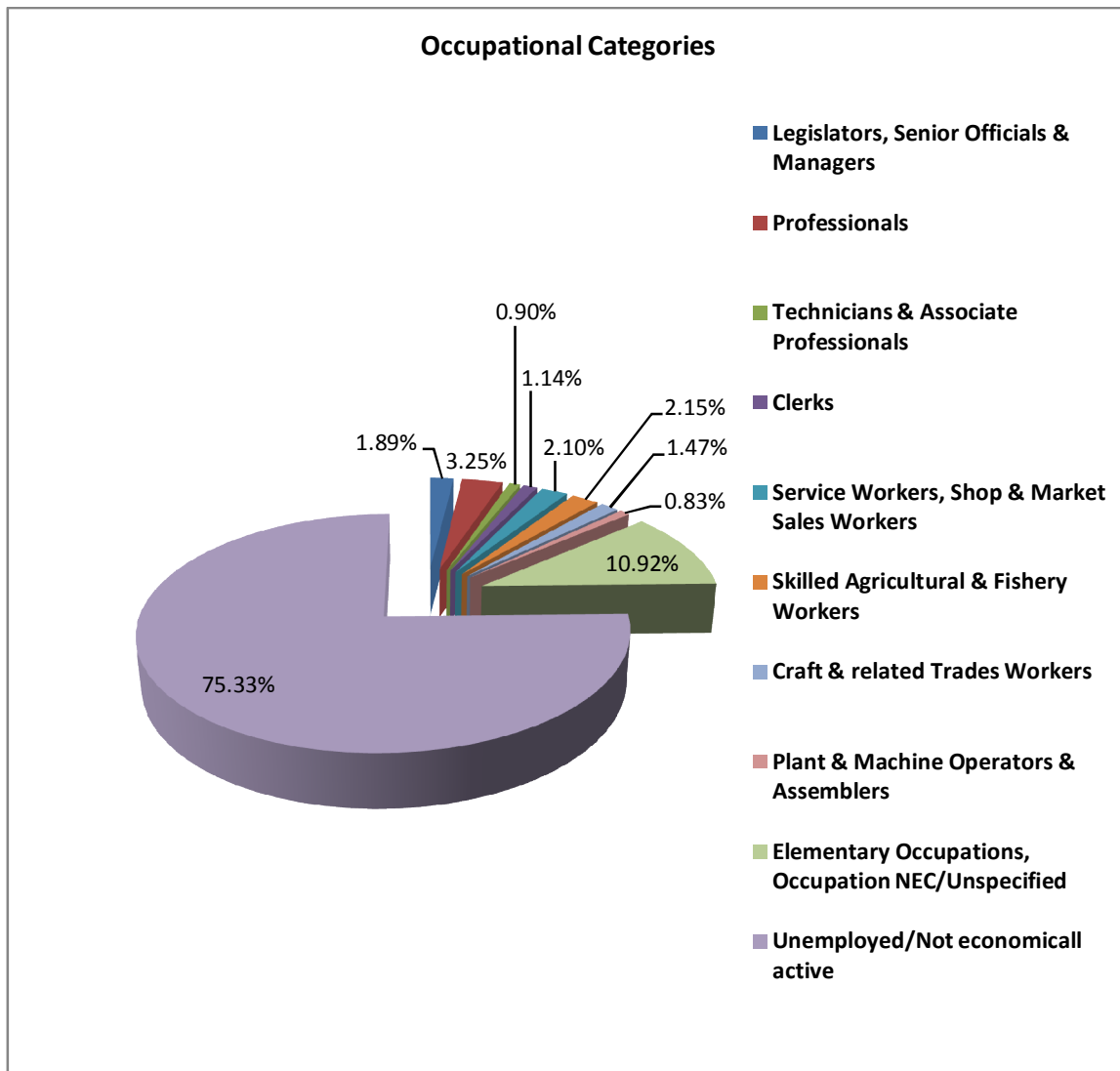
**Source: Census 2007**

The employment sector is dominated by elementary occupations (10.92 %). Craft and related workers, service shop market and sales workers, and clerks jointly constitute 4.71% of the employment sector. Professionals, technicians and associate professionals and legislators / senior managers jointly constitute only 6.04 % of the employment sector.

This dominance of elementary and other low level occupations is testimony to the low skills base of the area. This is aggravated by an absence of tertiary educational institutions which contributes significantly to the low levels of graduates in the area. Consequently there is an acute shortage of skilled artisans, engineers, project managers, business management skills and technical skills in agriculture, tourism, forestry and environmental management.

The following figure provides an overview of the occupational categories within Matatiele Local Municipality.

Figure 14: Occupational Categories



Source: Census 2007

#### 2.4.5 Dependency on Social Grants

There is a high level of dependency on social grants. 80493 people or 31.3 % of the population are dependent on social grants which include the following:

- Old age pension
- Disability grants
- Child support grants
- Care dependency grants
- Foster care grants
- Grant in aid
- Social relief

Child support grants and old age pensions respectively constitute 69 % and 22.6 % of the allocated grants. Only 1.3 % of the population receives disability grants as compared to the 3.9 % of the population who have a disability. Given the high poverty



levels, the Matatiele Municipality needs to facilitate a process to ensure that all potential beneficiaries of grants receive what they are entitled to.

## **2.5 SECTORAL OVERVIEW**

### **2.5.1 Agriculture**

Agriculture is the main economic activity in the Municipal area. Currently it is a limited base for economic expansion due to the fact that the majority of farming is traditional subsistence farming. There are some commercial farming activities in the Cedarville area.

The area has favourable conditions for the development of the agriculture sector and it is critical to assess the potential of this industry and devise methods of exploiting this untapped potential. Substantial input will be required in terms of education, training, management, marketing and the development of linkages.

The Department of Agriculture has the following programmes in the Municipal area:

- Siyazondla Homestead Food Production (Green revolution)
- Siyakhula Step up Food production Programme
- Massive Food programme
- Mechanisation Conditional Grant Scheme
- Mechanisation Conditional Loan Scheme
- Eastern Cape communal Soil Conservation Scheme
- Land Care Programme
- Soil Conservation Scheme
- Comprehensive Agriculture Support Programme
- Farmer Organisation Development
- Eastern Cape Livestock Production Improvement
- Livestock production Improvement Programme

Predominant agriculture activities in the area include livestock farming and crop farming.

#### **2.5.1.1 Live Stock Farming**

Adequate good quality grazing makes the area suitable to livestock farming and animal husbandry. Cattle, sheep and goat farming are the most predominant. Much of this farming is small scale and provides low incomes compared to commercial livestock farming elsewhere in the Province.

Livestock farming is being supported by the Provincial Department of Agriculture through its programmes. In rural areas livestock is culturally important and act as savings/investments rather for cash income and one of the main challenges is to increase income from communal livestock farming.

### **2.5.1.2 Crop Farming**

Rainfall, soil quality and the availability of water resources make the area suitable for agricultural production. Dry land farming is generally of a subsistence nature, and there are large tracts of uncultivated arable land. There is very good potential for maize, sorghum, wheat, sunflower, hemp, beans, vegetables (cabbages, potatoes, butternut, green pepper and spinach), and deciduous fruits (peaches & apples). In particular, the (titled) Ongeluksnek farms (north of Matatiele) are ideal for large-scale fruit and vegetable production.

### **2.5.1.3 Forestry**

The National government ASGISA programme has identified forestry development as a key pillar to achieving the economic growth and development targets, and has prioritized forestry as a key sector for support across all tiers of government.

There are many forestry plantations in the area and saw mills which can be developed to enhance their economic potential. The economic potential of value chain activities such as furniture making, wood chips, saw milling, timber board, charcoal, furniture, pulp and paper also needs to be exploited.

Forestry development in the Matatiele Local Municipality will be largely dependant on the utilization of state land that is part of communal land. This land is vested with a multitude of land rights attached and a process of community consultation is essential when identifying potential forestry land. Due to the size of viable plantations, it is conceivable that a number of communities will be involved in the decision making. This can be complex and controversial, leading to conflicts between different communities and different groups within a single community, especially when allocating benefits to accrue from new plantation.

Virgin agricultural land identified as suitable for forestry is also subject to an environmental impact scoping and assessment process under the NEMA legislation. It can take up to six months or longer to obtain a Record of Decision (ROD). The approval or issuing of forestry licenses is the responsibility of the Department of Water Affairs & Forestry, in consultation with the Provincial Department of Agriculture and the Provincial Land Reform Office (PLRO) of the National Department of Land Affairs. This is usually a lengthy process and issuing of licenses is still a major challenge within the Municipality.

### **2.5.1.4 Agricultural Background**

The potential for agriculture depends on a number of factors, foremost are the following:

- Soil properties (types and classes) and their implications on enterprise selection.
- Availability of water: cost, quality and quantity
- Climatic conditions and their influence on enterprise selection and production costs.
- Markets and their influence on enterprise selection and profitability/
- Land value/cost.

- Farm security
- Support structures; technical support and funding mechanisms
- Skills levels and production preferences of the producers.
- Ownership of land

There is a unique interaction between these different natural resource elements and the agricultural potential and its relationship to different production systems. These interactions should be explored to enable the resources to guide land use for different agricultural enterprises as well as production systems, i.e. commercial agriculture, small scale agriculture and farming for household food security.

While most of these items can be modeled to predict land potential for farming, issues like security, opportunity costs and approval of water extraction rights, even if water resource are available, may render seemingly high potential land unproductive for farming.

Upgrading tenure security is a pivotal program of the Department of Land Affairs and aims at providing more secure rights for people that already occupy land. The implication is that the present small subsistence-level production system will probably remain. The former chapter on land administration indicated the disturbing diminishing role of the Department of Agriculture in land allocation and land use planning. This needs to be reversed if the latent potential is to be developed. Much of the legislation regarding sustainable resource protection is directed at commercial agriculture rather than communal or smallholder systems. The following will discuss the criteria for ascribing potential for farming land.

#### **2.5.1.5 Criteria for land use potential**

##### **General comment**

Land use potential describes the land's capacity to accommodate different agricultural enterprises. Each agricultural enterprise requires different soil and land conditions to produce optimally. For example, crop production under irrigation requires a soil that is deep and free of impediments for root development. It should also be freely drained to allow for the removal of salts that may accumulate in the soil through irrigation practices and by implications of fertilizer. Rainfed crops, on the other hand, produce better on soil with moderately restrictive layers for drainage. This allows water retention and may allow crops to overcome short periods of drought that periodically occurs.

Factors that are taken into consideration in rating land for different land uses are slope, soil depth, soil structure, texture, drainage conditions and occurrence of rock.

Rock outcrops in an otherwise deep well-drained soil may be more suitable for horticulture than for field crops, because mechanization problems are less severe than with field crops (where the total area is cultivated). These soils are more suitable to hand cultivation.

## Potential rating

The National Department of Agriculture has identified the following soil forms and criteria for high potential agriculture land:<sup>i</sup> Agricultural land is considered to be of high potential if it may be cultivated in terms of Part 1 of the regulations of Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act 43 of 1983, and is:

- under permanent irrigation, or
- can be classified into one of the following soil forms:  
Avalon, Bainsvlei, Bloemdal, Bonheim: Families 1100, 2100, 3100, Cartref, Clovelly, Glencoe, Glenrosa, Griffin, Hutton, Inanda, Kroonstad, Longlands, Magwa, Mayo, Nomanci, Oakleaf, Pinedene, Shortlands, Tukulu, Vilafontes or Westleigh
- the effective soil depth is equal to or greater than 450 mm, and
- the average soil clay content of more than 10%.

Guidelines for cultivation of crops based on slope for different soil types are indicated in the Agricultural Resources Act of 1983 and the area directive gazette under notice 2601 of 2 December 1983.<sup>ii</sup>

- Maximum slopes for Mayo and Bonheim is 20 %
- Maximum slopes for Glenrosa, Oakleaf, Cartref, etc is 12%.
- Mispah and Escourt and other duplex soils are not arable.

### 2.5.1.6 Farming Opportunities

The opportunities identified by the Eastern Cape Development Corporation are as follows:

**Livestock:** Cattle, sheep and goat farming have potential through improved marketing infrastructure, increased animal productivity and community partnerships.

**Crops:** The district has many rivers but is constrained by winter frosts. Small-scale irrigation, including commercial schemes, is possible in the summer in many areas.

**Forestry** plantations cover a significant portion of the district and can be increased in size. Rural incomes can increase from community forestry and wood products. Forestry has great potential.

**Food processing** is limited but has longer-term potential linked to small-scale meat and dairy processing, and possibly linked to tourism.

**Wool processing** can be started as a community industry, linked to craft products and woolen garments.

**Furniture** has strong links to the local forestry and can develop with investment in small high-quality hand-crafted furniture. Larger industries are possible,

**Leather and Leather goods:** Animal skins are exported from the district, but can be processed in small-scale tanneries linked to craft leather industries.

**Aloe ferox:** homeland rural processing industries, including harvesting of leaves, cosmetics and health products and exports.

**Bee honey, beeswax and Propolis:** low cost to establish community industries and outgrower production by smallholders.

**Black horticulture farmers:** establish individual horticultural farmers on private and state land, through land purchase, training and mentoring.

**Essential oils:** small scale farming or aromatic plants including indigenous varieties. Strong management needed.

**Flowers:** fresh and cut flowers, including local varieties (proteas, bulbs)

**Hem:** cropping trials on hem for fibre and textiles. Opportunities for smallholder production in Transkei and product branding

**Herbs, spices, medicinal plants:** small scale farming in irrigable areas. Strong management needed. Possible use of medicinal herbs in pharmaceuticals.

**New irrigation farms:** irrigation potential on up to 32, 000 ha in the Transkei.

**Olives:** olive production in interior of the province. Smallholder mixed farming around a core estate with processing.

**Smallholder extension services:** focus extension services on smallholders, including improved maize production, home gardens and integrated cropping.

**Tomatoes:** extension of production, especially to black farmers in ex-homelands.

### 2.5.2 Tourism

Tourism activities in the Municipality are limited, despite the fact that there is abundant natural beauty and a diverse array of cultural groups which have strong potential for eco, adventure and cultural tourism.

Tourist attractions include:

- Spectacular mountain scenery
- Maluti Hiking Trails
- Tshisa Hot Springs
- Wetlands (wild horses and bird life)
- Trout-fishing
- Ongeluksnek Nature Reserve (136 km<sup>2</sup>) and uninhabited) in the north west of the District, bordering Lesotho.



Accessibility to and information on tourist attractions is limited and the urban centres should ideally serve as tourism gateways and information centres in order to attract tourists to the local area. The tourism potential of the area also needs to be linked to other established tourism routes such as the coastal areas and Lesotho.

### 2.5.2.1. Nature Reserves

The Municipality is developing the two nature reserves within its area namely the Ongeluksnek Nature Reserve which borders Lesotho and the Wilfried Baur Nature Reserve. **Both these areas have been declared conservation areas** and are of immense conservation interest and tourism potential. The areas are in process of being fenced and development will include a gateway office complex which will serve as an information centre, chalets, camping facilities and an environmental education centre. Activities that will be encouraged will include birding, game watching and fishing.

### 2.5.3 Environmental

#### General

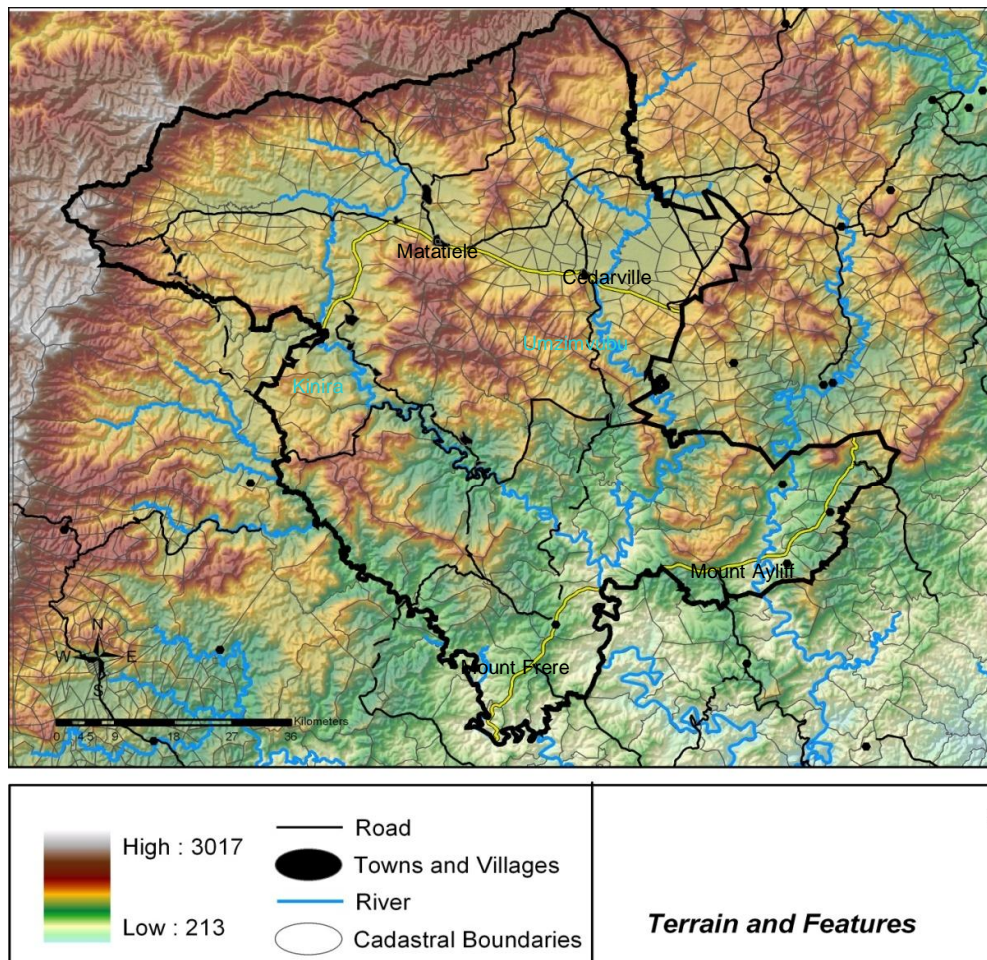


Figure 25: Topography and General Features of Matatiele

ANDM incorporates a rugged landscape ranging from roughly 750m above sea level where certain rivers leave the district, to 3000m above sea level in its highest areas in the region of Ongeluksnek. This makes for a diverse set of environments within the municipality. This diversity should be embraced as an environmental opportunity.

Numerous perennial rivers run through the municipality, including the Mzimvubu River which represents one of the last remaining perennial rivers in the Eastern Cape which has not been impounded (dammed) from its source to the sea.

### 2.5.3.1 Landcover

Landcover (Figure 16) simply represents the type of vegetation or surface occupying space within the local municipality. It gives a good idea of the type of activity within the municipality, the way in which the land is used, as well as an approximation of the state of the land.

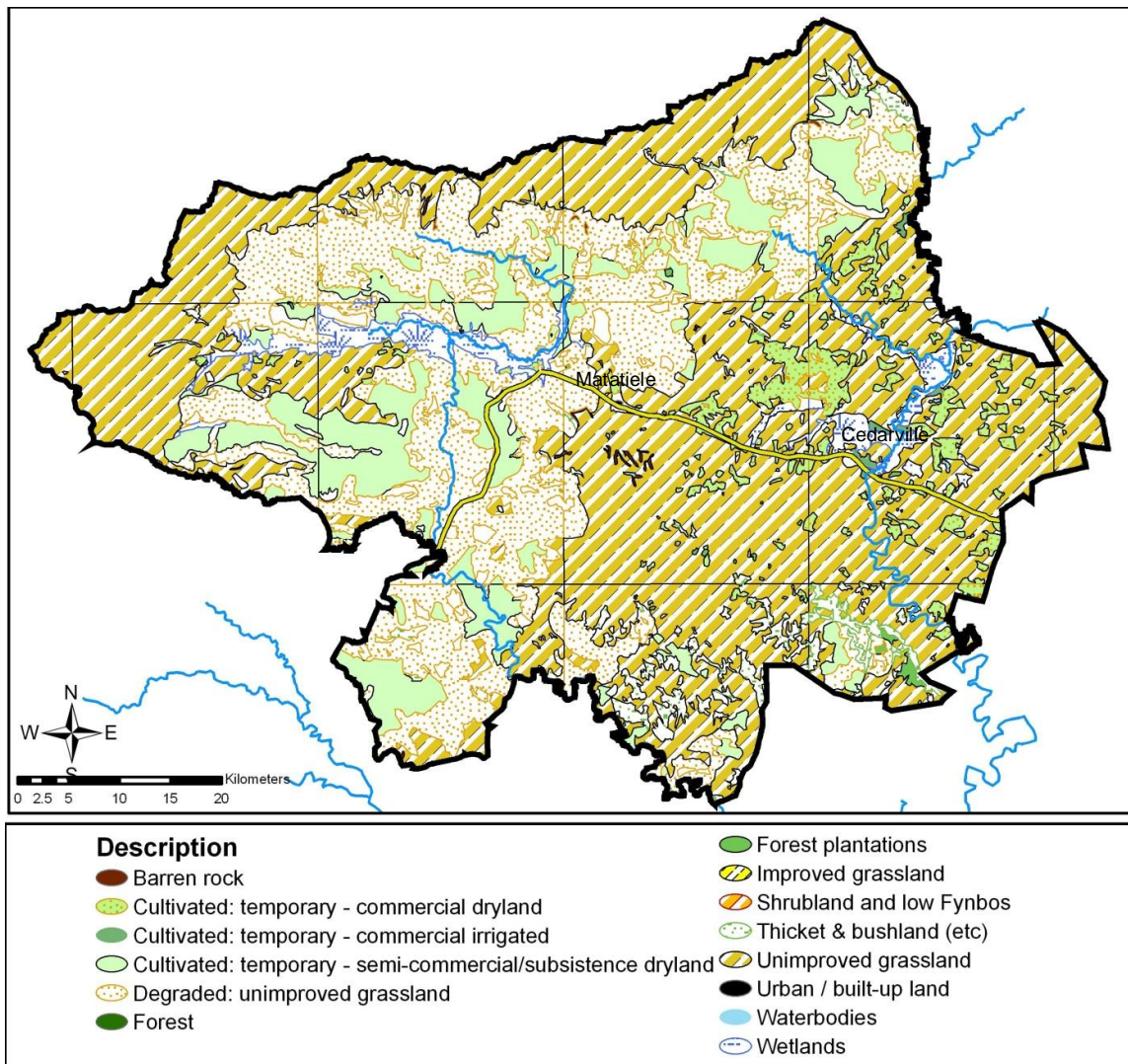
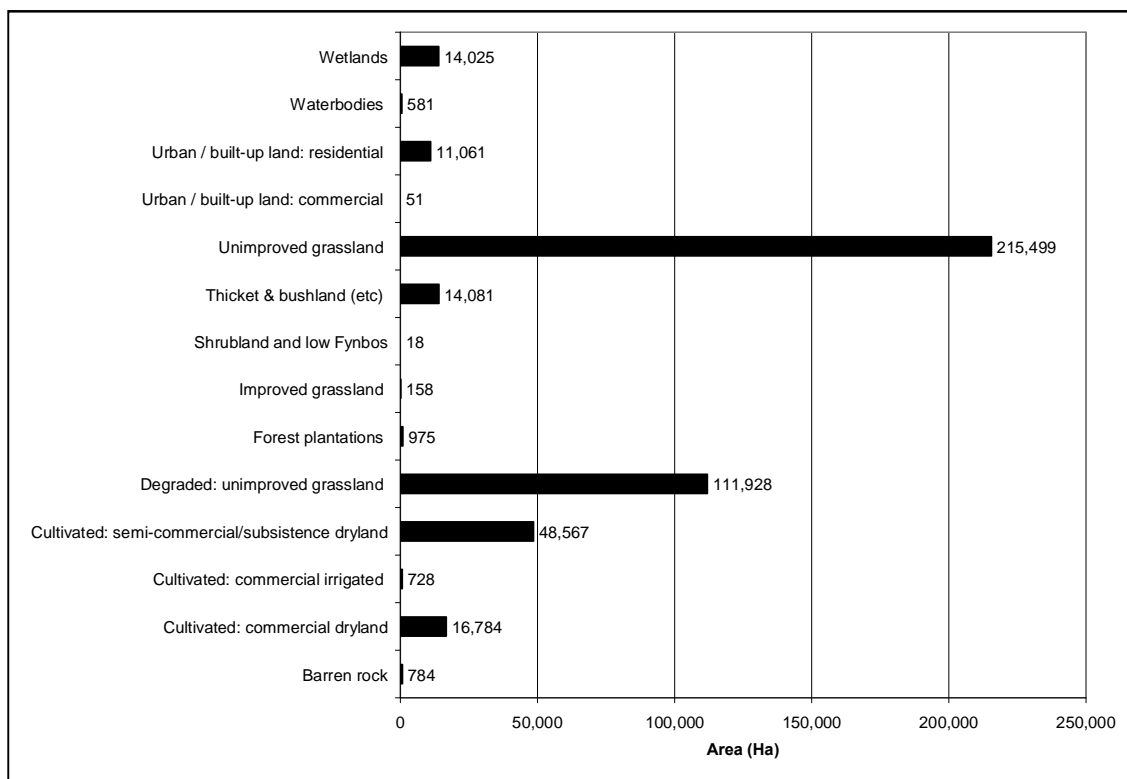


Figure 16: Landcover within Matatiele Local Municipality.

Figure 17 shows that landcover is dominated by unimproved grasslands and degraded grasslands. It is noteworthy that 111,928 ha (25.7%) within the municipality is covered by degraded grasslands, which are generally associated with high levels of soil erosion and gully, and low livestock carrying capacities. Such degradation leads to siltation in water bodies, and general loss of ecosystem integrity within rivers and terrestrial areas. By the delineations of the landcover map, 56.1% of the municipality has retained its natural or near natural state (in other words unimproved grassland, water-bodies, wetlands etc). The concerning corollary is that 43.9% of the area is in a non-natural, transformed or degraded state (in other words urban/settlement areas, cultivated land, plantation and degraded grassland etc). This implies that a large proportion of the municipality has more or less lost its original ecosystem functioning and biodiversity status.



**Figure 17: Area of different Landcover types within Matatiele LM (Ha).**

In terms of Area Base Planning, any land-reform initiatives should avoid transforming land that is in a natural or near-natural state, and should rather focus on improving the utilisation and management of land types that have already been transformed or degraded.

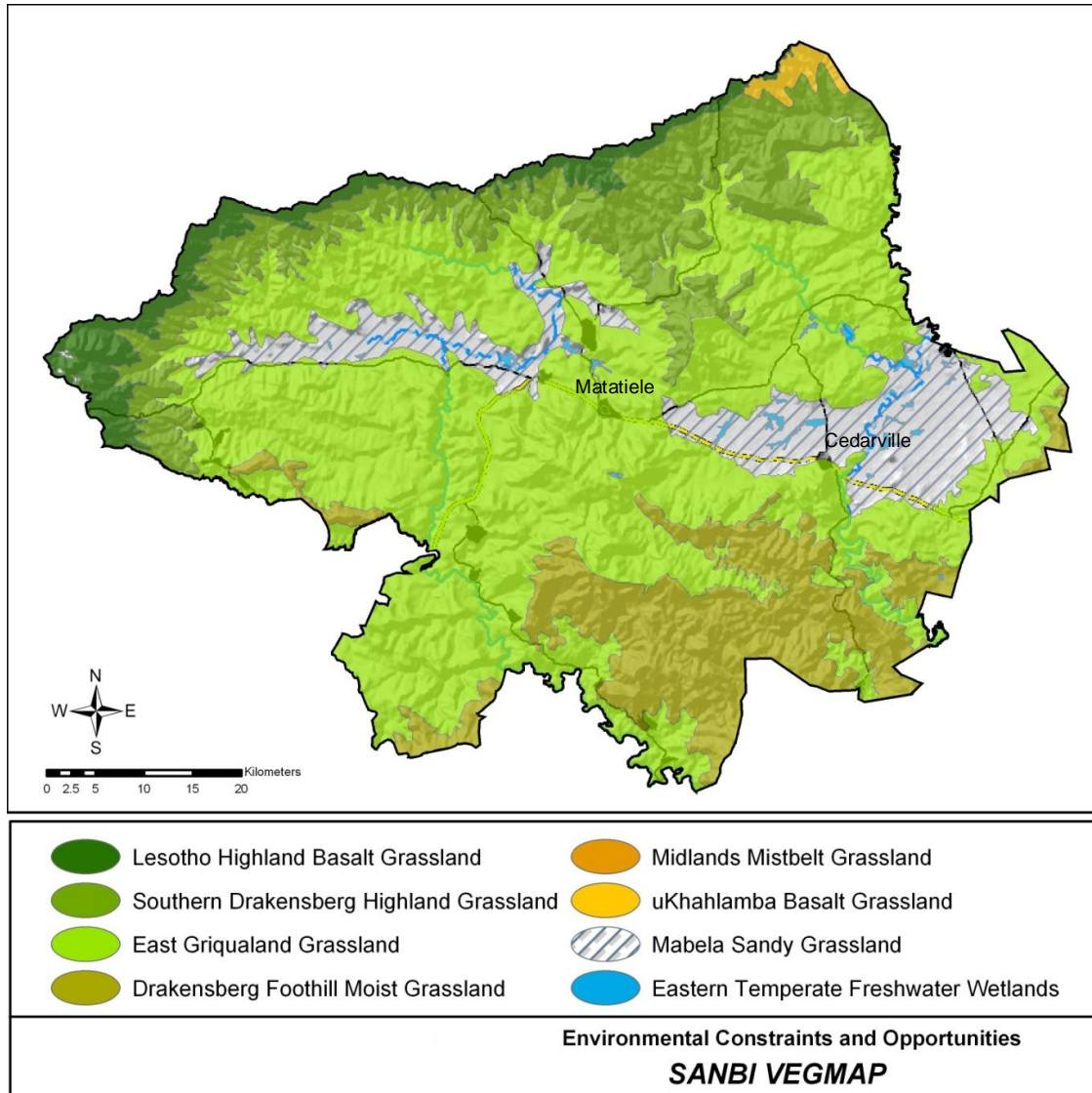
### **2.5.3.2 Vegetation type and distribution**

Matatiele falls generally within the Sub-Escarpment Grassland Bioregion and the Drakensberg Grassland Bioregion. These bioregions are characterised by high species richness and a high rate of species turnover (or variation) associated with changing gradients, altitude and environmental conditions.

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) has recently produced a



vegetation atlas for South Africa. The map below (Figure 18) shows the distribution of the broad vegetation types found in the ANDM. The main vegetation types change from Lesotho Highland Basalt Grassland at highest altitude, to Southern Drakensberg Highland Grasslands, East Griqualand Grassland and finally Drakensberg Foothill Moist Grasslands at lower altitudes. Within this pattern, Mabela Sandy Grasslands occur in two sections of alluvial/saturated soils.



**Figure 18: Zones of vegetation type within Matatiele LM** (Source: SANBI 2006).

Table gives a break-down of the conservation status of the vegetation types. East Griqualand (making up 57% of the area) and Mabela Sandy Grasslands (making up 10.8% of the area) are classified as vulnerable vegetation types in a national biodiversity context. Both these vegetation types are classified as ~~Hardly Protected~~ in terms of protection within declared reserves.

In terms of Area Based Planning, ideally widespread development in endangered and

vulnerable areas should be avoided or conducted in an environmentally sensitive manner.

**Table 6: Conservation and Protection Status of Vegetation Types within Matatiele LM.**

NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS	GROUP	PROTECTION STATUS	AREA (HA)	% AREA
<b>Drakensberg Foothill Moist Grassland</b>	Least threatened	Sub-Escarpment Grassland Bioregion	Poorly protected	59411	13.7
<b>East Griqualand Grassland</b>	Vulnerable	Sub-Escarpment Grassland Bioregion	Hardly protected	248828	57.2
<b>Eastern Temperate Freshwater Wetlands</b>	Least threatened	Freshwater Wetlands	Poorly protected	1933	0.4
<b>Lesotho Highland Basalt Grassland</b>	Least threatened	Drakensberg Grassland Bioregion	Hardly protected	19006	4.4
<b>Lesotho Mires</b>	Least threatened	Freshwater Wetlands	Hardly protected	96	0.0
<b>Mabela Sandy Grassland</b>	Vulnerable	Sub-Escarpment Grassland Bioregion	Hardly protected	47058	10.8
<b>Southern Drakensberg Highland Grassland</b>	Least threatened	Drakensberg Grassland Bioregion	Poorly protected	56215	12.9
<b>uKhahlamba Basalt Grassland</b>	Least threatened	Drakensberg Grassland Bioregion	Well protected	2693	0.6

### 2.5.3.3 Sensitive Environmental Areas:

#### WMA 12 Strategic Environmental Assessment

The environmental sensitivity outcomes of the WMA 12 SEA) are detailed in Figure below. Areas of environmental sensitivity in which development should be avoided, or conducted under strict environmental guidelines, include the following:

- **Maluti-Drakensberg Centre of Endemism:** Endemism means the occurrence of a set of plant or animal species only within a particular area. In other words the Maluti Drakensberg Centre of Endemism occurs at the centre of a grouping of unique biological species, which if lost in that area, will effectively become extinct.
- **Wetlands:** Wetlands are vital components of hydrological and terrestrial ecosystems. They form a vital function in terms of storing, releasing and cleaning water for continuous flow in rivers, while they contain unique plant, invertebrate and bird species. However wetlands are sensitive and vulnerable to exploitation such as draining for cultivation, or for forestry.

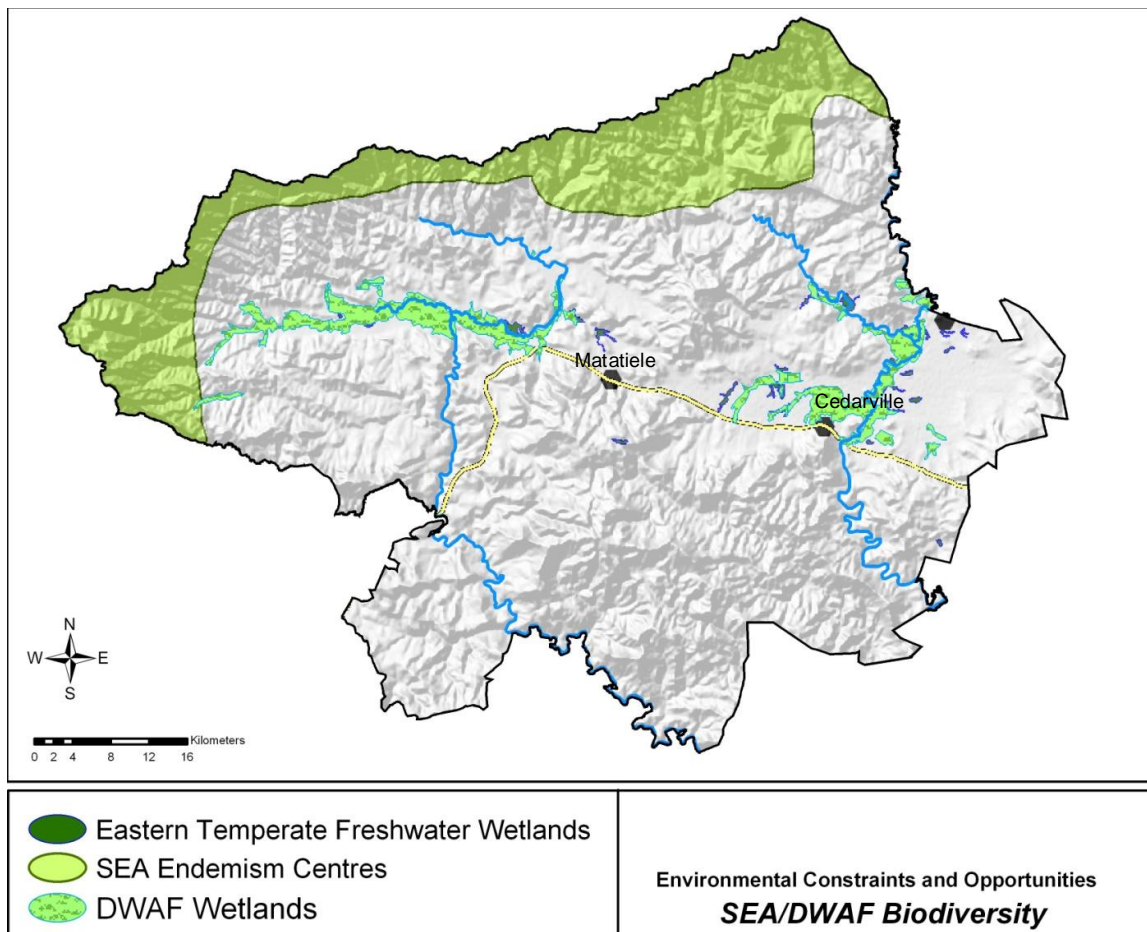


Figure 19: Areas of Environmental Sensitivity as Identified by the DWAF WMA12 SEA.

#### 2.5.3.4 Eastern Cape Biodiversity Conservation Plan

The Eastern Cape Biodiversity Conservation Plan (ECBCP ) defines critical biodiversity areas, as well as planning units, which represent important conservation areas which also form biodiversity corridors between critical biodiversity areas (Figure 20). These are detailed below:

- **Protected Areas:** Protected areas are in a natural ecological state, and should remain so indefinitely as core areas for conservation of representative species. Protected areas in Matatiele LM include Malekgonyane (Ongeluksnek) Wildlife Reserve, and Ntsikeni Nature Reserve.
- **Expert Units:** These are areas identified by Biodiversity Experts as Critical Biodiversity Areas.
- **Forest Clusters:** These represent pockets of Natural Southern Mistbelt Forest, which are protected under the National Forest Act and the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act.
- **Marxan Planning Units:** These are 250ha conservation units derived from a systematic conservation planning process which ensure the persistence over time of species within the critical biodiversity areas, and which facilitate biodiversity corridors between critical biodiversity areas.

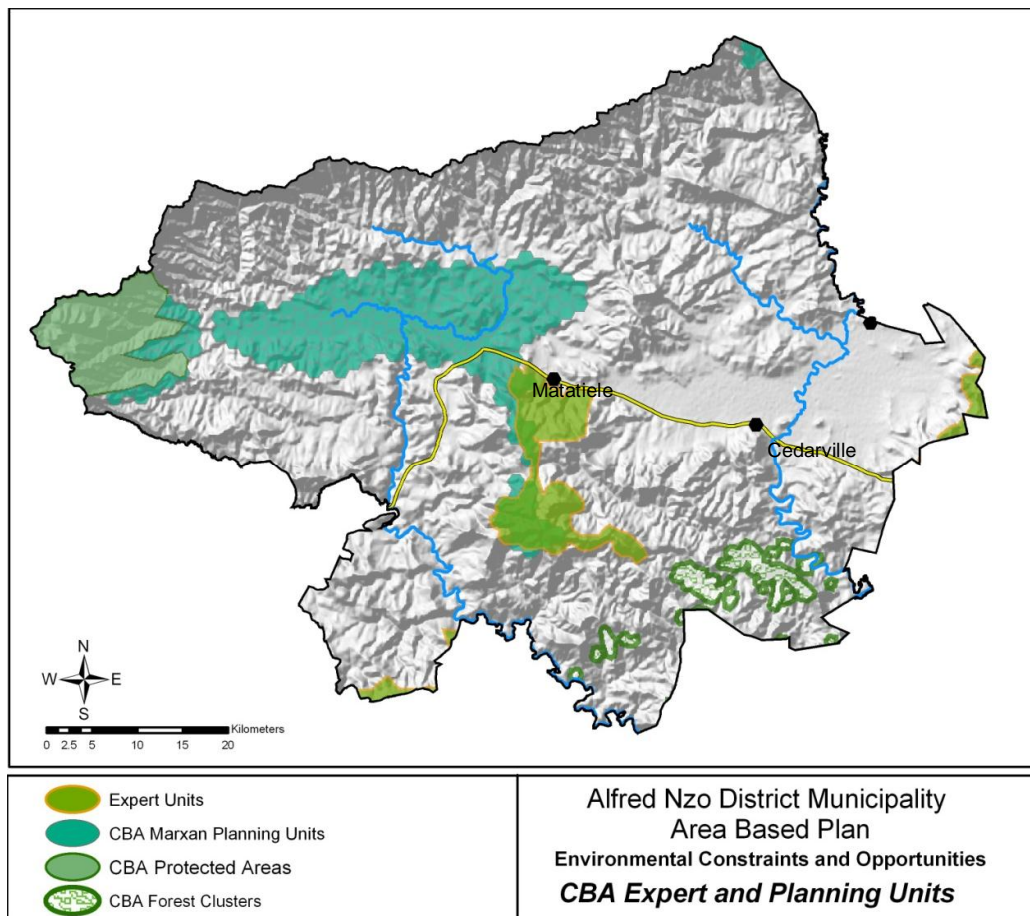


Figure 20: Critical Biodiversity Areas and Planning Units as defined in the Eastern Cape Biodiversity Conservation Plan.



### 2.5.3.5 Composite Map of Environmentally Sensitive Areas.

Figure 21 gives a Composite of Sensitive Environments, Planning Units and Exclusionary Areas defined by the ECBCP and WMA 12 processes. The colour coding in the map is not linked to any particular scale or graduation, but the orange and red areas simply illustrates areas where development should be avoided, or where only certain types of development should be contemplated (such as ecotourism).

Added to the map (coloured as yellow) is a biodiversity corridor extending from the Coast to the Maluti-Drakensberg as defined in the ECBCP. This corridor is important in a provincial context in that it facilitates the unimpeded movement of species along an intact river system from an altitude of 0m to 3000m. Land reform initiatives taking place in this zone should recognise the purpose of the corridor and avoid kinds of development which compromise the corridor.

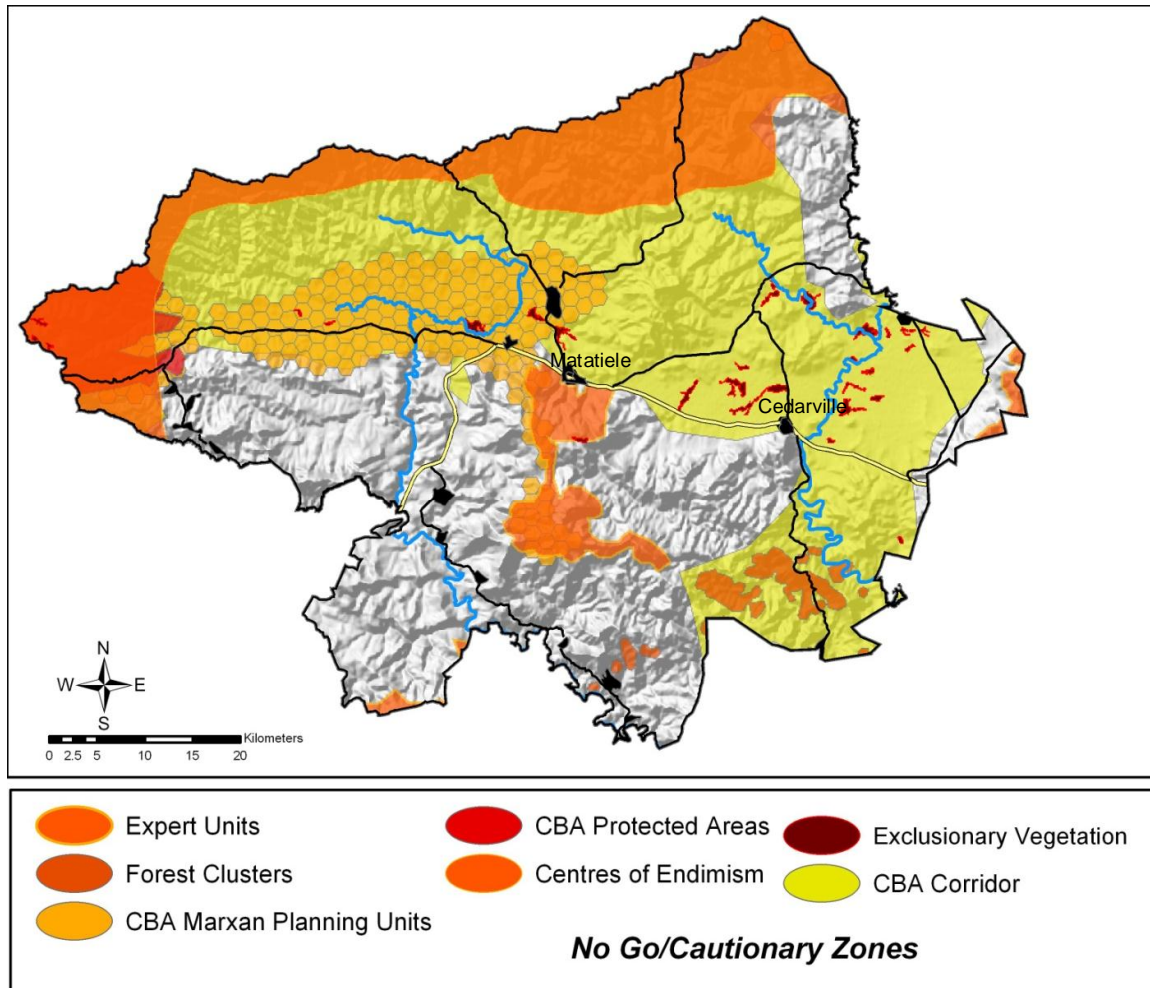


Figure 21: Composite of Sensitive Environments, Planning Units and Exclusionary Areas: Matatiele.

Alfred Nzo District Municipality status quo report on the state of the environment is a very important tool that will help the District to determine its environmental

integrity and how it contributes to human well-being and the interrelationship with resource sustainability. The state of the environment is one of the major indicators of economic development of a community. How well the cultural and historical heritage is understood and looked after is evidence of traditional environmental awareness and knowledge. An Environment Situation Analysis Report is attached in Appendix 5.

The diverse climatic, geological, soil and landscape forms found in Alfred Nzo have resulted in a relatively good diversity of species, most of which have become scarce as their populations decline due to degradation of habitats. Most of the hill slopes are used for grazing of livestock with the result that most of these slopes have limited vegetative cover. Less than 10% of the District is conserved.

#### **2.5.3.6 Major forms of degradation in Alfred Nzo District**

- Conversion of natural habitat to meet the needs of the ever-growing human population.
- Invasion by alien species which are replacing large numbers, and in some instances whole populations, leading to depletion of water resources, loss of grazing and ground cover, which in turn leads to soil erosion.
- Rapid population growth and inappropriate government policies in the past encouraged cultivation in unsuitable areas, and use of poor agricultural methods. This has impacts on terrestrial ecosystems, through degradation, alteration of processes, or transformation.
- The number of roads under construction is increasing, with some of the construction methods contributing significantly to land and water quality degradation.
- Consumption patterns have led to increased waste and with no proper disposal methods, there are risks to humans and animals from pollution

#### **2.5.3.7 Environmental Issues that need to be addressed:-**

Field studies, review of existing data, information gathered from interviews and experience indicate that improper use of fire, invasion by alien organisms, erosion and topsoil loss, land transformation to agriculture, forestry and grazing, over utilisation of indigenous species, settlement encroachment, waste disposal, dust and storm water management are the major environmental issues that need to be addressed by the District.

#### **2.5.3.8 Land Use affecting Grasslands**

##### **Cultivation**

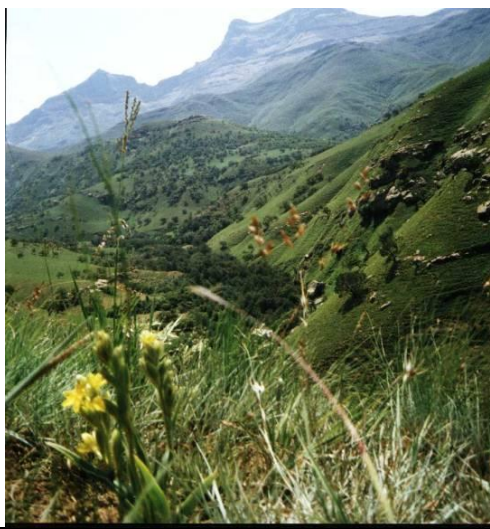

Ploughing destroys grassland and removes natural groundcover. Once topsoil is lost, the original grassland can never recover, and erosion becomes a permanent feature where grassland once existed.

## Grazing

This can be one of the least damaging of land uses **IF** stocking rates are adhered to, and rotational grazing is practiced. Livestock are often left untended, and in the case of goats and sheep this is destructive. This has resulted in disappearance of the original palatable grasses, which have been replaced by shrubs.

## Use of fire

The practice of annual burning to stimulate new green growth is prevalent because of the persistence of the stereotype that fires stimulate early growth. Whilst fire is part of the natural regime of grasslands, and constitutes an important management tool, its frequency can make or break grassland vigour and productivity. Annual burning is extremely destructive, and eventually reduces groundcover through reducing soil moisture and hampering long-term growth of certain species.

	
Typical view of upper catchments showing Hypoxis bulb and Eragrostis in foreground. Steep hillsides with protruding sandstone are dotted with Proteas, and some wattle invasion can be seen in the stream bed at the centre of the picture. © ERS 2003	View of a river valley in the lower lying areas. Note ploughed lands along riverbanks, and loss of groundcover on steeper slopes with presence of chichi ( <u>Leucosidea sericea</u> ) and ralarala ( <u>Chrysocoma</u> spp). Species diversity appears to decrease with proximity to settled areas.

### 2.5.3.9 Forestry

Forestry adjacent to grasslands can sometimes increase local animal species diversity as it provides another habitat along the margin of the plantation and grassland interface. However, due to the canopy, growth of other species is inhibited in forested areas. This is however temporary, as this habitat is rapidly destroyed once felling takes place.

### **2.5.3.10 Roads**

Road construction is often the source of gully erosion due to creation of concentrated run-off from improperly designed road drainage systems. In addition, road cuts are left bare and this result in extensive rill erosion which builds up to gully erosion as the volume of run-off water increases. Poorly planned road drainage can contribute to flash floods, which are a major threat in the area, and require immediate and expensive disaster management response.

### **2.5.3.11 Spread of settlements**

This is possibly the single biggest factor affecting grassland status and groundcover, as described earlier. The link between settlements and livestock concentrations, with heavy grazing and trampling in such areas, is a major threat to the health of groundcover in general.

### **2.5.3.12 Threats to Grasslands**

Among others, the key threats to maintaining grassland quality and extent include:

- *Breakdown of community management structures leading to open access resource use.*
- *Uncontrolled burning to stimulate grazing or through runaway fires without firebreaks.*
- *Population growth and increased pressure on communal resources especially in the vicinity of settlements*
- *Invasion by alien plants which changes groundcover composition and effects hydrological processes, reducing groundwater tables and moisture availability to grassland plants.*
- *Unsustainable land use practices driven by socio-economic factors, for example sale of large volumes of medicinal plants.*

### **2.5.3.13 Indigenous Forests**

The District is relatively well endowed with indigenous forest in comparison to the national average. Some medical plant collection takes place, but this is mainly by local people with intimate knowledge of the area. Undergrowth appears to be healthy, and bird life is abundant.

This is an indicator that these forests are in excellent climax condition, with an absence of disturbance and presence of necessary foods and breeding requirements allowing birds to breed successfully.

### **2.5.3.14 Threats and vulnerable areas**

Many of the indigenous forests exist alongside commercial plantations whose operations often crush adjacent undergrowth, and destroy second generation growth of saplings. The proximity of indigenous forest to plantations can increase fire threats due the high volatile content of trees such as eucalypts and pines.



Vulnerable areas include forest margins where livestock and timber harvesters can penetrate.



Clearing of Cypress trees on edge of indigenous mist belt forest can be destructive for undergrowth if not carefully monitored. This cleared area will have indigenous seedlings replanted by the contractor with support from WFW and DWAF.

#### **2.5.3.15 Catchments and Water Related Elements**

The three main forces driving the freshwater environment in Matatiele are the natural conditions, population dynamics and policy guiding management of water resources.

The high intensity summer storms, dry winter and spring months accompanied by high evaporation rates, together create low available run-off. There is a growing demand for water with the growing population and the need for economic development to meet basic needs.

These socio-economic activities drive water use and lead to greater water demand and associated increased pollution of available resources. The third driving force is the policy pertaining to management of water resources and land-use practices which impact on water quality and availability.

The indigenous aquatic fauna and flora are well-adapted to the variable climatic conditions, and many are reproductively opportunistic as a result. Matatiele Municipality is currently not subject to major water extraction activities such as

dams and inter-basin transfer, and the rivers are thus in a fairly stable state from that respect.

### **Wetlands**

The Municipality has one main wetland area in the eastern area, namely the Ongeluksnek area. The wetlands along the Ongeluksnek valley are subject to abuse through farming practises, trampling by livestock and drainage by old furrows which irrigated lands in the past. These wetlands provide an important habitat for waterfowl, especially ducks and cranes, the latter being endangered.

### **Springs**

Factors affecting spring quality and flow volume include their location (latrines and graveyards can have an obviously adverse effect on quality) as well as the presence of vegetation, especially alien invasives.

### **Riparian Land Use**

This is mainly in the form of cultivation, with settlements rarely occurring too close to riverbanks due to the threat of seasonal flooding. Cultivation too close (less than 30m) to riverbanks is not common but does occur, especially where land users are trying to irrigate vegetable crops. The biggest problem posed is through alien invasion of riverbanks, especially by wattle (*Acacia dealbata* and *mearnsii*), which results in the loss of natural bank vegetation and increased bank erosion and scouring during floods.

### **Soils and Ground Cover**

Matatiele Municipality has not been mapped at a detail that would allow proper determination of specific locations of soil types and land cover status. The Municipality has experienced different forms of degradation that have resulted in removal of substantial amounts of soils, resulting in extensive areas of bare rock especially on steep slopes.

Grazing of crop residues and removal of organic residues prevents the built-up of organic matter, an important binding element for soils which also retains most of the soil fertility.

The forest plantations have formed a canopy that prevents sunlight and limits moisture from precipitation from reaching the ground, thus preventing undergrowth and cover for the soil. Soils under the trees are dry and barren. Following harvest of the trees, the soils are exposed to the elements and are prone to erosion.

#### **2.5.3.16 Predominant land uses and their effects on soils**

Grazing on hillslopes results in the loss of vegetative cover, compaction, soil and nutrient loss. Extensive compaction and crusting is common, resulting in decreased infiltration and increased runoff and erosion.

### Threats and Impacts

Breakdown of community management structures and sporadic settlement patterns have led to unsustainable land use practice which in turn have resulted in loss of productive land, loss of habitat, impact on food security and loss of hydrological processes.

### Recommendations

- *Stabilization of trails and tracks in the mountains and protected areas*
- *Development and implementation of plans for rehabilitation of eroding areas*
- *Mechanical structures such as gabions for initial stabilization of waterways and wetlands where feasible*
- *Deployment of natural erosion control measures and revegetation of degraded lands*
- *Classification and categorization of the types of erosion prevalent in the project area*
- *Detailed mapping of highly erodible soils to address the tunnelling problem in these soils*
- *Proper monitoring of construction activities especially roads to ensure proper disposal of excess water*
- *Introduction of conservation with production methods such as replanting with grass species that can also be used as fodder.*

#### 2.5.3.17 Plantation Forestry

##### *Threats*

Plantations pose a threat to other elements such as the water table, by utilising vast amounts of groundwater throughout the year. Plantations can also be habitat destroyers, whereby the natural habitat for associated grassland species (flora and fauna) is removed. The lack of undergrowth on plantation floors does not encourage the presence of small mammals, as there is limited protection and food availability

Many of the plantations in the area occur adjacent to or as a buffer zone for indigenous forests. The presence of *Podocarpus* species (yellowwoods) in indigenous forests adjacent to plantations provides a great temptation for many contractors, due to its high market value. There are several cases of felling contractors cutting yellowwoods, often hundreds of years old, as well as crushing new generation indigenous growth at the margin of the indigenous and commercial forests.

#### 2.5.3.18 Conservation Areas

There is proclaimed conservation area that exists within the District:

- ❖ ***Malekhalonyane Nature Reserve***, 13 000ha in extent, in the north-western corner of the District

##### **Threats**

The major threats are posed through alien plants and uncontrolled illegal grazing and hunting. The interaction with the Maluti-Drakensberg project can augment and enhance the efforts being made by the management agents.

### **2.5.3.19 Indigenous Fauna**

#### **Indicator species and their habitats**

The range of animal and bird species found in the area, provide an indicator of the good biological diversity of the area. Common mammal species include the Grey and Water mongoose (*gxalashe*), Cape Clawless Otter, Black-backed Jackal, Rock Dassie, Mountain Reedbuck, Hares, Baboons, Porcupine, and Striped field mouse. The Grey Rhebok is also found in the area. The scarcity of small and medium buck species is attributed to hunting with dogs.

#### **Land use and its impacts on local fauna**

Settlement and cultivation create habitat changes which are generally not favourable. Hunting, collection of eggs and trap will reduce the local populations of certain species.

Collection of crane eggs, poisoning and wild fires has contributed to the rapid decline of these birds across the country. Forest destruction will reduce the specific habitats for many bird species.

### **2.5.3.20 Vulnerable habitats**

These include wetlands, riverine ecosystems and grasslands from grazing, trampling, silting and invasion by alien plants.

### **2.5.3.21 Alien Species and their impact**

#### **Threats to biodiversity**

The primary threat posed by invasion of alien vegetation is loss of habitat such as grassland and water. Alien plants fragment habitat and disrupt the natural corridors. A decrease in the size and an increase in the isolation of remnants of natural communities have a significant impact on the diversity and sustainability of those remnants. Organisms which use riparian corridors for migrations will be adversely affected by the loss of these habitats.

Invasions of riparian communities can also alter the stream flow regimes and affect the aquatic and stream bank biota.

### **2.5.3.22      Extent of Degradation and Pollution**

#### **Soil erosion**

Widespread surface erosion is prevalent in many of the settled and grazed areas, mostly as a result of over-utilisation especially adjacent to village settlements where livestock move everyday. Slumping is common in the overgrazed low lying areas due to piping and the undermining that occurs with unstable material such as mudstones



#### **Water pollution**

This is mainly from sediment load and poor sanitation. Water test results from some streams indicate coli form contamination mainly due to poor sanitation practises.

#### **General waste disposal**

General waste disposal in settled areas is a problem in that limited formal facilities exist, apart from those in the towns, resulting in widespread distribution of plastic, glass, tins and paper. This has an impact on water resources and animal health.

#### **Air pollution**

Matatiele Municipality is not industrialized and therefore most of the air pollution is from dust and some of the pollution transported from industrial centres.

Veld fires are also a contributor to the pool of pollutants to the atmospheric circulation system, together with the countless coal fires burning in homes. Gravel access roads around the district, most of which are not well maintained, are contributing to the pollution both from dust.

#### **Impacts**

Air pollution can act directly on vegetation and animals, or indirectly via the soil. The direct effects of air pollution on plants and animals depend on the



concentration of pollutants in the air, while the indirect effects are related to the cumulative level of deposited pollutants in the soil and streams.

Ecosystems such as wetlands are sensitive to acidic precipitation and pollution of these systems may lead to changes in species composition in the wetlands and the streams draining from them.

With an increase in pollution, there will also be a rise in the lung, eye and skin diseases.

### **2.5.3.23 Cultural and Heritage Features**

#### **Oral history**

This priceless asset exists in the minds of elders, and remains largely undocumented, apart from some seminal works focusing on the Pondo people and their vibrant traditions. The Kokstad Museum has made some attempts at recording the stories told by older residents, particularly the Griqua people, whose trek over the Ongeluksnek area is legend. Much of the cultural heritage of the Xhosa, Hlubi, Bhaca and Sotho people in the area is not formally documented.

#### **Threats**

One of the greatest threats is ignorance. Destruction of the rich and varied heritage is often unintentional, such as bulldozing of fossil beds or stone age settlement remains during construction. The lack of education about and pride in South African heritage is a weakness, and will not foster care for our local heritage sites and knowledge.

#### **Management recommendations**

Documentation, awareness and education, assessment of buildings and establishment of a museum function for the sub-region should be implemented with the local people in order to enhance their understanding and appreciation of the treasures.

### **2.5.3.24 Legislative Responsibilities with respect to Environmental Management**

South Africa is a signatory to international conventions and protocols such as the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Ramsar Convention on the Protection of Wetlands. These conventions, among others, aim to guide environmental management.

Legislation such as the Constitution, the National Water Act, the Environmental Conservation Act, the Environmental Conservation Act, National Environmental Management Act (73 of 1989), emphasize the need to ensure that development of the country's landscapes and resources should be environmentally sustainable. Matatiele has an obligation to comply with the regulations and laws of the country.

### **2.5.3.25 Recommendations for an Environmental Management Plan**

#### **Environmental awareness and education**

Involvement of communities in decision making and sharing of benefits from conservation areas, together with education, extension and research, and a balance between addressing social and environmental issues, will enhance feelings of ownership, and contribute to the success of schemes to promote sustainable development.

#### **Conservation with production**

Conservation by itself does not encourage active community participation because of the long time it takes to see actual results on the ground, and because it is not seen to contribute directly to the well-being of the people. Therefore conservation with production methods should be introduced. These include replanting overgrazed areas with fodder trees and fast growing fodder grasses that also hold the soil together.

#### **Preparation of environmental guidelines**

Environmental assessments and environmental management plans should be prepared for specific development initiatives, such as roads, forestry, tourism, etc. It would be beneficial for the Municipality to have sectoral guidelines for each of these areas and activities.

#### **Maintenance of spatially remotely sensed data**

The data will be used to monitor land use changes, water resources, urban and regional planning, alien species invasions, wetland mapping and environmental impact assessment.

#### **Land use planning**

An important step in the process is to develop the land use plan and ensure that there is both local and political level buy-in to its implementation. Functionally what is needed is a plan to optimize local benefit from the resource base as a means of limiting environmental degradation. It is suggested that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) approach be adopted, where planning is done based on the environmental opportunities and constraints.

#### **Sustained land management in communal areas**

District authorities and their stakeholders should aim to establish sound natural resource management practices within the communal areas. In some instances this may be through generation of alternative land use practices such as eco-tourism to replace or partly replace the current grazing and agricultural practices. More sustainable grazing and rangeland management will be the only option in most areas.

It is important to facilitate the formation of community based natural resource management institutions that are run by the local people with assistance from the relevant technical department.

Table 7: Environmental themes and associated issues identified in the 2005-2006 ANDM IDP.

Theme	Issue
Land Degradation	<p>Major forms of degradation in Matatiele Municipality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Conversion of natural habitat to meet the needs of the ever-growing human population.</b></li> <li>• Invasion by alien species which are replacing large numbers, and in some instances whole populations, leading to depletion of water resources, loss of grazing and ground cover, which in turn leads to soil erosion.</li> <li>• Rapid population growth and inappropriate government policies in the past encouraged cultivation in unsuitable areas, and use of poor agricultural methods. This has impacts on terrestrial ecosystems, through degradation, alteration of processes, or transformation.</li> <li>• The number of roads under construction is increasing, with some of the construction methods contributing significantly to land and water quality degradation.</li> <li>• Consumption patterns have led to increased waste and with no proper disposal methods, there are risks to humans and animals from pollution</li> </ul>
Threats to Grassland	<p>Among others, the key threats to maintaining grassland quality and extent include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakdown of community management structures leading to open access resource use.</li> <li>• Uncontrolled burning to stimulate grazing or through runaway fires without firebreaks.</li> <li>• Population growth and increased pressure on communal resources especially in the vicinity of settlements</li> <li>• Invasion by alien plants which changes groundcover composition and effects hydrological processes, reducing groundwater tables and moisture availability to grassland plants.</li> <li>• Unsustainable land use practises driven by socio-economic factors, for example sale of large volumes of medicinal plants.</li> </ul>
Threats to Indigenous forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many of the indigenous forests exist alongside commercial plantations whose operations often crush adjacent undergrowth, and destroy second generation growth of saplings.</li> <li>• The proximity of indigenous forest to plantations can increase fire threats due the high volatile content of trees such as eucalypts and pines.</li> </ul>



Threats to the Freshwater Environment	<p>Impacts on Wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The wetlands along the Ongeluksnek valley are subject to abuse through farming practises, trampling by livestock and drainage by old furrows which irrigated lands in the past.</li> <li>The wetland to the north of the Ongeluksnek road requires urgent attention and protection. The primary function of a wetland is the storage and filtering of water, and as such their presence in the upper catchment is of vital importance to the health of the larger catchment.</li> </ul> <p>Riparian Landuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultivation too close (less than 30m) to riverbanks is not common but does occur, especially where land users are trying to irrigate vegetable crops.</li> <li>The biggest problem posed is through alien invasion of riverbanks, especially by wattle (<i>Acacia dealbata</i> and <i>mearnsii</i>), which results in the loss of natural bank vegetation and increased bank erosion and scouring during floods.</li> </ul>
Loss of soil and productive land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grazing on hillslopes results in the loss of vegetative cover, compaction, soil and nutrient loss. Extensive compaction and crusting is common, resulting in decreased infiltration and increased runoff and erosion.</li> <li>Breakdown of community management structures and sporadic settlement patterns have led to unsustainable land use practice which in turn have resulted in loss of productive land, loss of habitat, impact on food security and loss of hydrological processes.</li> </ul>
Plantation Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plantations pose a threat to other elements such as the water table, by utilising vast amounts of groundwater throughout the year. Plantations can also be habitat destroyers, whereby the natural habitat for associated grassland species (flora and fauna) is removed.</li> <li><b>Many of the plantations in the Municipality occur adjacent to or as a buffer zone for indigenous forests. The presence of <i>Podocarpus</i> species (yellowwoods) in indigenous forests adjacent to plantations provides a great temptation for many contractors, due to its high market value</b></li> </ul>
Threats to Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The major threats are posed through alien plants and uncontrolled illegal grazing and hunting. The interaction with the Maluti-Drakensberg project can augment and enhance the efforts being made by the management agents.</li> </ul>
Threats to Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The primary threat posed by invasion of alien vegetation is loss of habitat such as grassland and water.</li> </ul>
Poor Waste Disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General waste disposal in settled areas is a problem in that limited formal facilities exist,</li> </ul>

Air Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The concentration of vehicular traffic along the N2 could also be contributing to the pollution but this has not been measured.</b></li> <li>• Veld fires are also a contributor to the pool of pollutants to the atmospheric circulation system, together with the countless coal fires burning in homes. Gravel access roads around the district, most of which are not well maintained, are contributing to the pollution both from dust</li> </ul>
Cultural and Heritage Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage sites are largely undocumented and consist mainly of <b>rock art sites and historical buildings.</b></li> <li>• The rock art sites are in varying degrees of preservation, and none of them are actively protected or conserved, with many having been vandalized, or damaged by the elements.</li> </ul>
Oral History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This priceless asset exists in the minds of elders, and remains largely undocumented, apart from some seminal works focusing on the Pondo people and their vibrant traditions</li> </ul>

## 2.6 FINANCIAL VIABILITY AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Matatiele Local Municipality is currently financial sustainable enough to meet all of its liabilities. Despite this the Municipality lacks financial resources and faces a multitude of financial challenges.

### 2.6.1 INCOME ALLOCATIONS AND SOURCES

The Matatiele Local Municipality derives its income from two sources namely:

⇒ External income

- Government Grants and subsidies
- Capital Grants

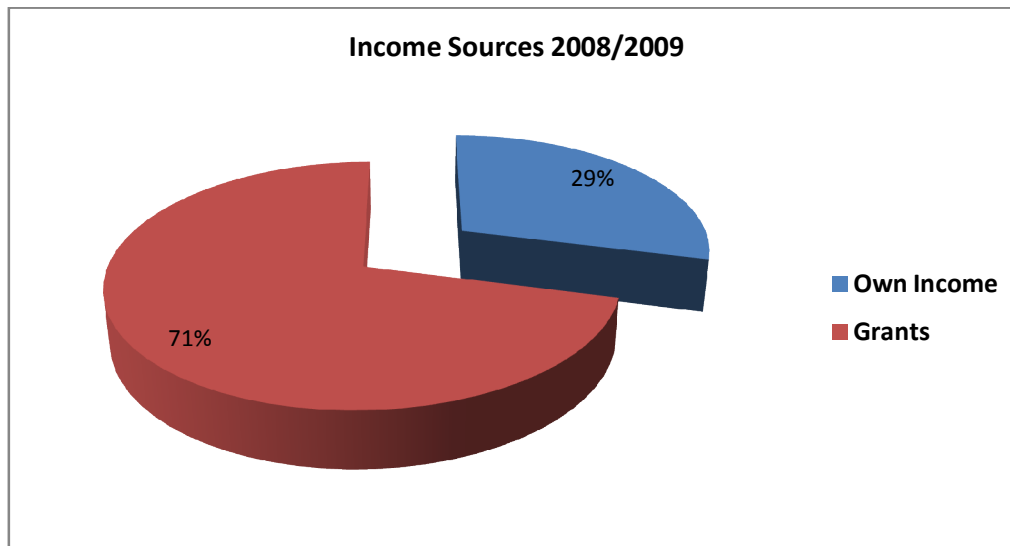
⇒ Own income

- Property rates
- Service charges on electricity and refuse removal
- Interest and dividends
- Rental on facilities
- Fines
- Licenses and permits

The Municipality has a low income base and is heavily dependent on Government grants and subsidies and capital grants which constitute 714 % of its 2008/09 budget. According to the budget forecast, external financing will constitute 72% of the 2009/10 and 2010/11 budgets. This trend exhibits little expectation that the Municipality will reduce its dependency on external financing.

The following figure depicts the income sources for the 2008/09 financial year

**Figure 22: Income Sources**



Source: Census 2007

#### **Areas of prioritised intervention**

- **Financial Strategy to address the expansion of the municipality's own resource base.**

#### **2.6.2 VALUATION ROLLS**

Property rates constitute only 10 % of the Municipality's income. The Municipality adopted a new valuation roll in July 2009 and it is anticipated that this will have a positive effect on the rates base from the 2009/10 financial year.

#### **Areas of prioritised intervention**

- **Compilation of an updated or new valuation roll**
-

### 2.6.3 Billing and Payment Rates

Property rates and service charges on electricity and refuse removal constitute 8 % and 13 % of the Municipality's own income for the 2008/09 financial year. A total of 4000 households are billed each month of which 3000 are urban and 1000 rural.

The Municipality does not have a recent valuation roll for the entire municipal area, and consequently its rates income is low.

Payment rates are poor and it is estimated that less than 7 % of households are paying their monthly accounts. This is compounded by the high poverty levels and low affordability levels of the community.

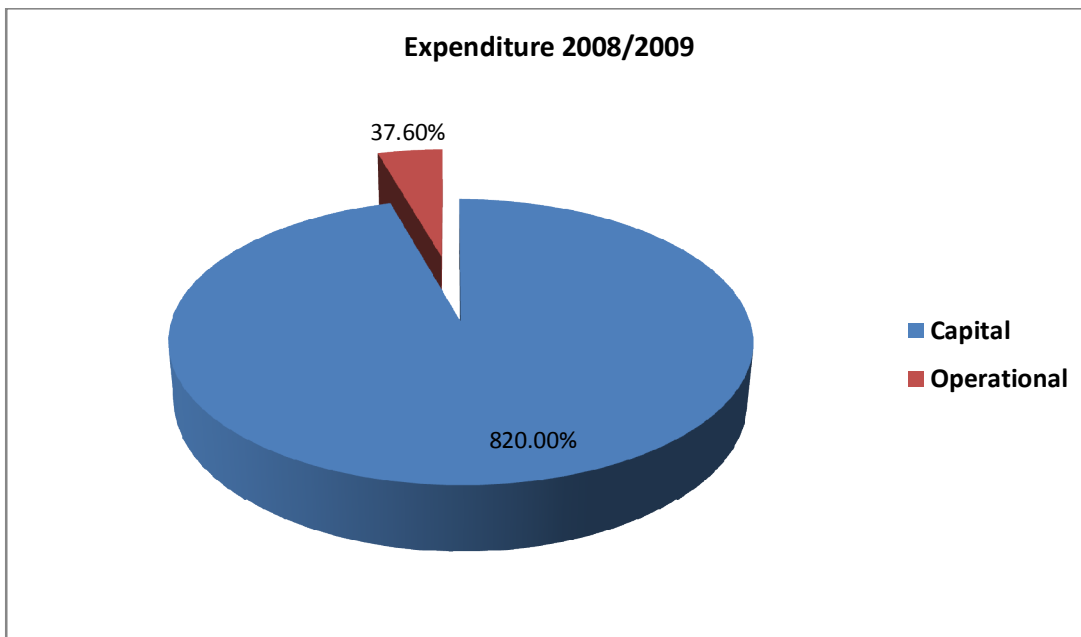
#### Areas of prioritized intervention

- **Review billing system to ensure service consumption is recovered**
- **Create awareness and culture of payment by consumers for services rendered**

### 2.6.4 Expenditure Allocation and Trends

The capital and operational budgets constitute 37.6 % (R101 154 773) and 62.3 % (R167 443 130) of the 2008/09 budget respectively.

Figure 23: Expenditure



National Treasury no longer prescribes a norm for salary expenditure and instead requires Municipalities to develop a personnel expenditure ratio that is based on the nature of its functions, organizational structure, labour intensity of intensity of its operations, extent to which labour intensive components of its operations are outsourced and the composition of non personnel components of its operational expenditure. The 2008/09 budget reflects that 26% of the operational budget was

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allocated to salary expenditure. This is well under the anticipated personnel expenditure for Local Municipalities in 2009/10.

The Municipality is constantly striving to provide services to its community which requires substantial capital investment, especially in terms of infrastructural assets. In order to maintain service delivery it is imperative that these assets be maintained in proper working order which requires equitable investment in terms of maintenance and repair costs. According to the National Treasury, Municipalities should be budgeting between 10 % and 15 % of their operating expenditure for repairs and maintenance<sup>iii</sup>. The 2008/09 budget reflects on allocation of 9 % to repairs and maintenance which falls only slightly short of the recommended norm.

#### 2.6.5 Breakdown of Expenditure Allocation

VOTE	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011
Council	17 814 880	18 260 532	18 990 953
Executive	3 081 141	5 179 911	5 387 107
Budget and Treasury Services	19 518 173	25 957 120	26 995 405
Technical Services	47 563 499	51 118 814	53 163 567
Community and Social Services	8 424 543	9 964 000	10 362 560
Corporate Services	6 693 815	8 310 194	8 642 602
Total	113 650 002	129 666 032	134 852 674

#### Areas of prioritized intervention

- Increase allocations for repairs and maintenance of infrastructure

#### 2.6.6 Provision of free Basic Services

Provision is made on the budget for the provision of free basic water services from the equitable share. In terms of the Division of Revenue Act 2008 Matatiele Municipality received an Equitable Share of R42 525 000, which is not adequate to deliver services to the area.

The Matatiele Local Municipality has adopted an indigent support policy which aims to assist the poorest of the poor by providing free basic electricity and refuse removal services. The policy includes indigents throughout the jurisdiction of the Municipality and there are currently 726 registered. Indigent clients must re-register every six months.

Households receiving free basic services during the 2008/2009 financial year are reflected below:

Free Basic Electricity	Free Basic Water	Free Basic Refuse	Free Basic Sanitation
50 kw per month	6 kl per month	R55.05 per month	R50.38 per month
R2 200 000	R6 200 000	R368 000	R122 000

### Areas of prioritized intervention

- Investigate possibility of extending FBS to rural areas – alternative options and solutions

### 2.6.7 Financial Policy Development

The municipality has a number of financial policies in place including:

- A debt collection and credit control policy
- Tariff policy
- Rates policy
- Indigent policy
- A supply chain management policy
- Cash management policy
- Investment policy

Internal financial controls, such as payment procedures, income receipts, charges, debt collections, etc have also been developed and are being implemented.

### 2.6.8 AUDIT, REPORTING AND RISK MANAGEMENT Reporting

Monthly financial reports are presented to the Municipal Council which reflects income and expenditure in accordance with the budget. Daily cash flow reports are produced to ensure sufficient available cash at hand. Annual Financial Statements in GAMAP format were compiled and submitted for the previous financial year.

#### Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is a shared service, between the Alfred Nzo District Municipality and Matatiele Local Municipality. Matatiele Local Municipality was one of the few municipalities in the Eastern Cape to receive an unqualified audit report for the 2007/08 financial year.

## **Internal Audit Unit**

Each municipality must have an internal audit unit, which must advise the accounting officer and report to the audit committee on matters amongst other things, on a wide range of financial management. The internal audit function may be outsourced if the municipality requires assistance to develop its internal capacity and the council has determined that this is feasible or cost effective. Matatiele Local Municipality has outsourced this function.

## **2.7 Municipal Transformation and Institutional Development**

### **2.7.1 Institutional Analysis**

#### **2.7.1.1 Powers and Functions**

In terms of section 84(1) of the Municipal Systems Act, Matatiele Local Municipality is authorized to perform the following functions:

- Air pollution
- Building regulations
- Child care facilities
- Electricity reticulation
- Local tourism
- Municipal airports
- Municipal planning
- Municipal public transport
- Storm water
- Trading regulations
- Billboards and the display of advertisements in public places
- Cemeteries, funeral parlours and crematoria
- Cleansing
- Control of public nuisance
- Control of undertakings that sell liquor to the public
- Facilities for the accommodation, care and burial of animals
- Fencing and fences
- Licensing of dogs
- Licensing and control of undertakings that sell food to the public
- Local amenities
- Local sports facilities
- Markets
- Municipal abattoirs
- Municipal parks and recreation
- Municipal roads
- Noise pollution
- Pounds
- Public places

- Refuse removal refuse dumps and solid waste management
- Street lighting
- Street trading
- Traffic and parking

The Constitution indicates that the objects of local government are:

- To promote democratic and accountable government for local communities
- To ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner
- To promote social and economic development
- To promote a safe and healthy environment and
- To encourage the involvement of communities and community organizations in the matters of local government

A municipality has the functions and powers assigned to it in terms of sections 156 and 229 of the Constitution. These functions and powers are divided between the District municipality and the local municipalities established within its area of jurisdiction. Section 84(a) to (p) of the Structures Act defines the functions and the powers that are assigned to District Municipalities. The Minister may authorize (under certain circumstances) a local municipality to perform a district function and power and the Member of the Executive Council for local government may (under certain circumstances) adjust specified functions and powers between the district and a local municipality in its area.

#### **2.7.1.2 Functions of Matatiele Local Municipality**

The MEC for Local Government adjusted the functions and powers between Alfred Nzo District Municipality and Matatiele Local Municipality as published in the Provincial Gazette No 1890 on 9 May 2008, to the extent reflected hereunder:

<b>Function</b>	<b>Alfred Nzo DM</b>	<b>Matatiele LM</b>
Air pollution		X
Building regulations		X
Child Care facilities		X
Electricity reticulation		X
Fire Fighting	X	X
Local Tourism	X	X
Municipal airports		X
Municipal planning	X	X
Municipal Health Services	X	



Municipal Public Transport		X
Pontoons and Ferries		
Storm water		X
Trading regulations		X
Water (potable)	X	
Sanitation	X	
<b>Schedule 5 part b</b>		
Beaches and amusement facilities		X
Billboards and the display of adverts in public places		X
Cemeteries, Crematoria and funeral parlours		X
Cleansing		X
Control of public nuisances		X
Control of undertakings that sell liquor to the public		X
Facilities for the accommodation, care and burial of animals		X
Fencing and fences		X
Licensing of dogs		X
Licensing and control of undertakings that sell food to the public		X
Local amenities		X
Local sport facilities		X
Markets		X
Municipal abattoirs		X
Municipal parks and recreation		X
Municipal roads		X

Noise pollution		X
Pounds		X
Public places		X
Refuse removal, refuse dumps and solid waste disposal		X
Street Trading		X
Street lighting		X
Traffic and parking		X

### 2.7.1. Matatiele Organisational Structure Overview

The Municipality's organizational structure comprises 336 positions which are divided into the following Departments

- Office of the Municipal Manager
- Municipal Treasury
- Corporate Services
- Economic Development and planning
- Infrastructure Development
- Community Services

The organizational structure of the municipality is indicated on figure 24 below:

Figure 24: Organisational Structure



The Municipality has a high vacancy rate, and 117 of the 336 positions are vacant which translates to a vacancy rate of 52.6 %. Five of these vacancies are on management level which translates to a vacancy rate of 21 % on levels 1 to 3.

Summarised detail, per department, is indicated in the table below:

Department	No of posts	Vacant posts	Filled Posts
Office of the Municipal Manager	02	01 PA to the MM	01
Municipal Treasury		Assistant Manager: SCM: Assistant CFO: Treasury: Fleet Officer: Revenue Officer: Project Accountant	
Corporate Services Department	20	05 Manager: Corporate Services: Senior Wellness Officer: Cleaner Driver	15
Economic Department and Planning	05	03 Assistant Manager: LED: Admin Offer: LED Officer	2
Infrastructure and Development		Works Manager: Senior Projects Manager: Project Managers Truck Drivers; General Workers Admin Clerk	
Community Services		Manager: Social & Comm. Development Foreman:	

		Revenue Clerk:	
		Pound Assistants:	
		Traffic Officer	
<b>TOTAL</b>			

There are at least 51 vacancies that are critical at this stage, which have not been filled due to lack of funds. It is planned to fill most posts over the medium term expenditure framework period. The Municipality is severely short staffed due to a lack of funding and also faces challenges in recruiting and retaining staff due to its location.

#### **Areas of prioritized intervention**

- **Review (with the view of streamlining) organizational structure**
- **Fast track the filling of critical senior management posts.**

#### **2.7.1.4 Office of the Municipal Manager**

The office of the Municipal Manager has the following duties assigned to it:

- Strategic management
- Internal auditing
- Special Programmes Unit

#### **➤ Municipal Treasury**

The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the Municipal Treasury which includes the management of Municipal assets & risks, revenue, the budget, the treasury function, internal financial control and financial reporting.

Key performance areas include

- Developing the financial viability of the Municipality
- Maximize the amount of Capital Budget spent on IDP related projects

A critical limitation in this Department at this stage is the absence of a Supply Chain Unit.

#### **Areas of prioritized intervention**

- **Establish a Supply Chain Management Unit**

#### **➤ Corporate Services**

The Key Performances areas of this Department are:

- **Municipal Transformation and Organisational Development**

- Good Governance

The General Manager Corporate Services is responsible for

- Administration
- Human Resources Management
- Registry and Archives
- Executive and Council Support
- Labour Relations
- Information Technology
- Legal Services

#### ➤ **LED AND Environmental Manager**

The General Manager Economic and Development Planning is responsible for:

- Local economic development with specific emphasis on tourism, agriculture and SMMEs
- Development planning which includes integrated development planning, environmental conservation, town planning and building control

#### ➤ **Infrastructure and Development**

The General Manager Infrastructural Development is responsible for the development and maintenance of:

- Roads
- Storm Water
- Community facilities and amenities
- Electricity
- Solid Waste Management and refuse removal

The Project Management Unit (PMU) is also assigned to this Department.

#### ➤ **Community Services**

The General Manager Community Services is responsible for:

- Protection Services which includes licensing, vehicle testing and traffic control
- Community Development which includes libraries, sport co-ordination, museums, housing coordination and community halls.

#### ➤ **Institutional (HR) Policy Development**

A total of thirty-five administration and human resources policies have been developed and are being implemented.

**The following policies have been developed by the Municipality:**

- **Bursary Scheme Policy**
- **Training and Development Policy**
- **Placement Policy**

- **Code of conduct for staff**
- **Acting Allowance policy**
- **Employee Assistance Policy**
- **HIV/AIDS policy**
- **Recruitment and selection policy**
- **Human Resource Development Strategy**
- **Records management policy**
- **Language policy**
- **Exit interview policy**
- **Computer and emails policy**

#### **2.7.1.5      Employment Equity**

The Municipality's employment equity plan is outdated and application has been made to the Province to provide funding for the revision thereof through the Turn Around Plan (TAP).

##### **Areas of prioritized intervention**

- **Update the employment equity plan**

#### **2.7.1.6      Development and Training**

The Municipality has developed a draft Workplace Skills Plan in accordance with the Skills Development Act. The plan aims to address the identified skills shortage within the municipality. A Skills Audit was also compiled to enable the Municipality to identify the skills gaps among employees. A training programme and an implementation plan were drafted and are being implemented.

#### **2.7.1.7      Performance Management**

The Municipality does have a Performance Management System in place. A service provider has been appointed on 26 November 2009 to develop such a system.

Matatiele is in process of developing a Performance Management System in terms of Section 38 of the Municipal Systems Act. The process includes the development and implementation of an organizational performance management system which will not only regulate the performance of Section 57 Managers but which will also

be cascaded down to other managers and officials within the municipality. PriceWaterhouseCoopers was appointed to develop the Matatiele Performance Management System and present it to Council. It is anticipated that the PMS will be compatible for implementation parallel to the adoption of the Final IDP and finalization of the SDBIP for 2009/10.

Beyond the fulfilling of legislative requirements, Matatiele Local Municipality intends to establish a performance management system that will effectively monitor, review and improve the implementation of the municipality's IDP, ensure accountability, facilitate learning and improvement, provide early warning signals and facilitate decision-making.

As a basis for accountability, extensive use will be made of (Service Delivery Budget Implementation Plans) SDBIPs and Annual Performance Agreements for Senior Management to measure performance. Draft SDBIP has been developed for each Department and contains programmes that align with the core functions of the Department. These plans facilitate effective measurement of the implementation of core functions in accordance with the budget.

#### **Areas of prioritized intervention**

- **Finalise respective Department SDBIPs**
- **Adopt and implement MPMs**

##### **2.7.1.8 Audit Committee**

Each municipality is obliged to have an independent advisory body which must advise the municipality on matters, amongst other things, relating to performance management and performance evaluation.

There is a shared service agreement between Matatiele Local Municipality and the District for the services of the Audit Committee appointed by the Alfred Nzo District Municipality.

##### **2.7.1.9 Internal audit Unit**

Each municipality must have an internal audit unit, which must advise the accounting officer and report to the audit committee on matters, amongst other

things, relating to performance management. The internal audit function may be outsourced if the municipality requires assistance to develop its internal capacity and the council has determined that this is feasible or cost effective. Matatiele Local Municipality has outsourced this function.

#### **2.7.1.10 Auditor General Performance Audit Report**

A Performance Management Framework has been developed by the Municipality.

#### **Intergovernmental Relations**

For the purpose of the 2009/2010 review, it was decided to deal with IGR related issues under Key Performance Area 4 namely Good Governance and Public Participation.

#### **2.7.11 Identification of priority issues**

The Municipality faces a number of challenges in meeting the local government objectives, one of the primary challenges being that the priority areas identified in this situation analysis do not all fall within the functional area of the Municipality. This has the effect that the Municipality will play a dual role namely that of implementing agent and that of facilitator and coordinator.

Pivotal to both roles is ensuring that the Municipality has the capacity and resources. It is on this premise that it is recommended that the municipality firstly review its institutional framework. Financial viability and governance to equip it to play the role required of it.

Broadly defined priorities are divided into three categories, namely institutional priorities, functional priorities where the municipality should play a significant coordinating and facilitating role and functional priorities where the municipality can play a leading role. It will be noted that there is some overlap as a result of different aspects of one priority falling within more than one category.

#### **Institutional financial and governance priorities**

##### Institutional



- The organizational structure needs to be reviewed to ensure that there are not positions on the structure that are unnecessary. Given the consistently high number of vacancies it is believed that some streamlining may be done.
- The most critical vacancies on the senior management structure need to be filled. The position of Municipal Manager is critical to ensure that the Municipality is vested with strong leadership. Other critical vacancies need to be identified and filled in priority order.
- The Municipality needs to establish a Supply Chain Management Unit
- The Municipality needs to develop a revised employment equity plan that reflects the current position and employment equity goals
- The Municipality needs to develop a performance management system in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Systems Act.

### Finance

- The Municipality needs to reduce its dependence on grants and develop its own resource base
- The Municipality urgently needs to compile a new valuation roll that incorporates all properties in the Municipal area in a bid to expand its rates base. This exercise will also enable it to review its billing system to ensure that all households are metered and billed for their service consumption. It is acknowledged that the majority of the community will qualify for indigent support but metering and billing will ensure that resources are accounted for and used responsibly.
- A culture of payment within the Municipal area needs to be encouraged
- The Municipality needs to try and increase its allocation to repairs and maintenance, especially in respect of infrastructure

### Governance

- The existing communication mechanisms must be utilized to develop the capacity of the community in terms of governance issues. This should include participation, an understanding of the financial management of the municipality and the development of a payment culture
- IGR structures need to be strengthened to ensure that they function effectively and that they provide an effective platform for communicating needs to other Sector Departments

## **Functional priorities where the municipality should play a significant co-coordinating and facilitating role**

### Social

- Youth development and empowerment programmes
- Gender development and empowerment programmes
- Local economic development programmes especially programmes in the sectors identified for development such as tourism and agriculture. Existing LED programmes of the Municipality need to be assessed in terms of strengths and weaknesses and developed in accordance with this assessment.
- Poverty alleviation mechanisms
- Access to social grants by qualifying beneficiaries
- Improving education levels and literacy levels in the area through enhanced access to secondary and tertiary education and the provision of library facilities
- Access to improved health care facilities by lobbying the Department of Health to improve its services at existing facilities and ensuring that all facilities provide a full range of services
- Access to improved HIV/AIDS treatment through registration of all the District Hospital in Matatiele as an ARV treatment site
- The development sports and recreational programmes that ensure a healthy society and play an important role in the development of our youth.
- Additional library provisioning. Mobile library services need to be encouraged to bring literacy to rural communities
- Encourage Community Policing forum establishment and participation

### Infrastructure

- The development of library infrastructure
- Provision of adequate housing especially rural housing
- Access to electricity in ESKOM areas of jurisdiction
- Telecommunication networks to ensure effective communication and effective functioning of the clinics
- The provision, upgrading and maintenance of roads in the district

## **Functional priorities where the municipality can play a leading role**

- Tourism development

- The development sports and recreational infrastructure
- The development sports and recreational programmes
- The provision, upgrading and maintenance of roads in the area
- Improvement of Community Halls
- Provision of extended cemetery services to ensure that entire area has access to services
- Improvement of road infrastructure
- Expansion of refuse removal services and facilities to prevent indiscriminate dumping in rural areas
- Establish a local safety forum and develop a community safety plan to address community safety issues
- Access to electricity in Matatiele

## **2.8 Good Governance and Community Participation**

### **2.8.1 Political Governance**

The Matatiele Municipal Council has forty eight Councilors. Six councilors were declared full time, namely: The Mayor, the Speaker and the Chairperson of the following Standing Committees, Budget & Finance, Corporate Services, Economic & Development Planning and Technical Services. The Municipality has a Collective Executive System, and the Executive Committee reports to the Council. The Executive Committee is comprised of eight Executive Committee Members and the Mayor, making up a total of nine members. The Executive Committee is chaired by the Mayor.

There are five standing committees that have been established in terms of Section 79 of the Local Government Municipal Structures Act, (Act 117 of 1998) to serve the following portfolios:

- *Budget & Finance;*
- *Corporate Services;*
- *Community Services;*
- *Economic and Development Planning with a Tourism and Marketing subcommittee;*  
*and*
- *Technical Services*

The mandate of the Standing Committees is to:

- *Develop and recommend strategy;*
- *Develop and recommend by-laws;*
- *Develop and recommend policies;*
- *Ensure public participation in the development of policy, legislation, IDP and budget; and*
- *Monitor the implementation of Councils policies*

The following Section 79 Committees have also been established:

- *Rules and Order Committee*
- *Special Programmes Unit Committee; and*
- *Annual report oversight Committee*

**The Accounting Officer (Municipal Manager) and section 57 managers attend Council, Executive Committee and Standing Committees to represent the municipality's administration and to account in the form of the IDP, budget, strategic and operational plans and the Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP).**

### **2.8.2 Inter-Governmental Relations**

The Municipality participates in District IGR structures, even though they are not fully operational at this stage. These structures are composed of the Technical Task Group and District Mayors Forum. The IGR structures should be mainly utilized to solve problems affecting service delivery as well as shared priorities for development. This process is hampered by the inconsistency of member department's representation to the structures and the attendance of these for a by people who do not have decision making capacity and impact on budgeting processes. This negatively affects integration. It should be noted though that there are departments which are committed to the process while others never form part of the IGR structures. This then leads to disintegrated service delivery or undermines integrated development. IGR structures also do form part of processes that review spatial frameworks. Service level agreements are being entered into where services are to be provided collaboratively by different departments.

### **Areas of prioritized intervention**

- Strengthen and cluster IGR structures

The following forums function at the district level:

- District Mayors Forum;
- District IDP and Budget Steering Committee;
- Alfred Nzo IDP Representative Forum;
- District Municipal Managers Forum; and
- District CFO Forum

#### **2.8.3 Partnerships and Strategic Relationships**

Matatiele Local Municipality has recognized the potential of strategic partnerships to develop its capacity. The Municipality is in process of concluding a partnership agreement with Johannesburg Metro and Quachas Nek District Administration in the Kingdom of Lesotho. Matatiele Local Municipality also collaborates closely with the District Municipality and benefits from strategic Inter-governmental partnerships entered into by the Alfred Nzo District Municipality.

#### **2.8.4 Traditional Leadership – Partnerships**

Regular discussions and workshops are held between the political and traditional leadership aimed at forging a co-operative relationship.

#### **2.8.5 Mainstreaming Of Special Groups**

The activities for 2008/09 are summarized hereunder and indications should be given as to what is intended to mainstream in 09/10 in areas of intervention.

### **Area of intervention**

- SPU Programme R1 000 000

### **2.9 Key Issues:-**

The following key issues were raised in the Matatiele Municipality:

## **Social Development**

- Inadequate police stations and urgent need for satellite police stations.
- Stock theft is still high
- Low Cost Housing in desperate need of street lights to minimize the occurrence of crime.
- Community Policing Forums (CPFs) need to be established, an allowance needs to be made to compensation to the CPFs as a form of motivation.
- Other stakeholders, such as the police need to be present in the next workshop.
- General moral regeneration is a need in the Matatiele municipal area.
- Health facilities are inadequate to cater for community needs.
- The Department of Land Affairs is reluctant to give land for the development of clinics.
- Shortage of sports and recreation facilities
- The level of alcohol consumption amongst the youth is attributed to the lack of entertainment centers.
- Other facilities such as banks, post offices, etc are also needed in Matatiele Municipality
- There is a need for satellite Municipal and Government Offices
- Insufficient education facilities, particularly related to:-
  - Technical skills centres
  - Public Schools
- There is a major backlog with general maintenance and service delivery.
- There is a need for an information centre at the entrance of Matatiele.

## **Land and Housing**

- Land ownership and access to land is a severe problem;
- Limited land use management and development control
- Land invasion to be prevented and controlled;
- There is a shortage of housing within the urban areas;
- Access to funding is a major problem for middle income housing;
- There is a need for rural planning; and
- Settlements are mushrooming in an uncontrollable environment;
- Insufficient Agricultural equipment/implements in local projects;
- System of land allocation and land administration in general has broken down.
- Upgrading tenure security is important for this area, particularly providing more secure rights for people that already occupy land.

## **Local Economic Development and Tourism**

- Private sector investment is required;
- High unemployment rate;
- Under/ineffective utilization of local resources;
- Poor skills base;
- Business skills not only technical skills required;
- Tourism potential not being harnessed: Heritage;
- No access to Markets;
- Matatiele does not have a Local Tourism Organisation
- Limited Accommodation facilities in the towns of Matatiele, Cedarville and Maluti.