

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES UNIT STRATEGY 2025/2026.



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1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The strategy is a guide for the Mbashe Municipality in its response to addressing the needs of children, youth, women, and older persons, people with disabilities and HIV and AIDS. In this strategy, children, youth, women, older persons and people with disabilities are referred to as vulnerable groups. The functions of the Sport have also been assigned to this Unit for coordination. The strategy builds on the lessons of our past achievements and failures and it serve as a blue print for all the stakeholders in Mbashe Municipality. The strategy is aligned to the broader developmental plans of the municipality as outlined in its Integrated Development Plan (IDP).

2. VISION, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

Vision

“A Municipality that excels in promoting social cohesion, stimulates economic growth and sustainable development”

Mission

By becoming an effective and efficient municipality with accountable leadership that is able to involve communities in the provision of quality service.

Values

In addition to the Batho Pele principles, our municipality commits itself to upholding the following set of values:

- Commitment
- Accountability
- Teamwork
- People Centred Development
- Discipline and respect

3. LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

Though there are several legislative and policy framework that regulates the mainstreaming of vulnerable groups, however, scope will be limited to the following:-

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SA, 1996 (ACT. 108 OF 1996)

Section 9 of the constitution advances equality of everyone before the law (see Chapter 2: Bill of Rights). This equality includes full and equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms. Towards this goal, legislative and other measures designed to protect or advance persons, or categories of persons disadvantaged by unfair discrimination maybe taken. These may include what has come to be known as "Chapter 9" structures. Specifically the section talks against direct or indirect discrimination on grounds of race, gender, sex, pregnancy HIV/AIDS status, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, beliefs, culture, language or birth.

MUNICIPAL FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT NO.56 OF 2003

Although there is no explicit reference in the Act for the designated groups, as part of Supply Chain Management Policy it must include in its sections provisions for Broad Based Black economic empowerment in order to accommodate designated groups.

MUNICIPAL SYSTEMS ACT NO.32 OF 2000

Chapter 4 section 17 of the Act provides for participation of its communities in encourages the participation of the people with special needs i.e. who cannot read or write, people with disabilities, women and other disadvantaged groups. This includes verbal presentations and rendering conducive environment for participation.

NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY 2020 – 2030 (NYP 2030)

Policy seeks to ensure that young people fully participate in the national and community life. In order to ensure a cadre of future leadership it is necessary to create a united, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous society in which the youth shall promote national reconciliation and unity, build a new patriotism and foster unity.

WHITE PAPER ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES 2015 (WPRPD).

This reiterates that the primary responsibility for disability equity lies with national, provincial and local government and other sectors of society but also allocates responsibilities to persons with disabilities

An analysis on 2011 Stats SA Census also shows that a bulk of 52% of population is children (age 0-19). About 8% falls in pension group (age 65 +), whilst 40% is at economically active ((age 20-64). This clearly indicates that 60% population is dependent on 40% of youth, which highly demands further consideration of capacity and skill development of the youth population.

Mbhashe owns one of the highest numbers of illiterate populations in the province of the Eastern Cape. 60% of its population is illiterate followed by ordinary schooling (Grade R who attended a formal school; Grade 1-12 learners and learners in special classes) of 37%. Only 0.62% has University degrees. This causes a high pressure to government as well as the population to engage this population in any formal economic activities.

This Municipality is also earmarked as populated with the highest number of poor population in the province of Eastern Cape, which is again revealed by the 2011 Stats SA Census that identifies that the unemployment rate as 93%, resulting from high illiteracy rate. Only 5% of population engaged in the formal sector and at 1% in each of informal and private households and the other number of population engaged in various available sector of employment opportunity in the Mbhashe Municipality.

The study further explains poverty level of Mbhashe. Only 39% of household has monthly income equal to or higher than R 3 000.00, whereas 47% living with equal to or less than R 8 000.00 per month and 14% has no income. It means about 61% households is living within poverty level.

The area has limited employment opportunities and this has huge implications on the increased need for welfare and indigent support in the municipal area. The municipality therefore needs to put priority into service provision, skills and social development especially for the marginalised and designated groups.

9. STATUS QUO OF THE VULNERABLE GROUPS

- Disability activities are performed by the Municipality working with the disabled people. The forum has been established in December 2019 for the next 5year term.
- Women's Caucus within the Council was established and the Women's Forum became defunct and is in the process of being re-established for the next 5year term beginning in January 2020.
- HIV/AIDS: Local AIDS Council has been established and there is still challenge in as far as cooperation between the Municipality and other relevant stakeholders. The municipality's internal workplace Policy (management of HIV/AIDS within the Institution) under employee wellness

program is in place. There are Centres that have been accredited for ARV distribution within the jurisdiction of the municipality.

- Mbashe Older Persons Forum is in place. The Older Persons of Mbashe are involved in the programmes that are sponsored by the Department of Social Development and Special Programmes, District Municipality and the Provincial Government and participate in District and Provincial structures. Mbashe Municipality assist in recreational programmes i.e. Golden Games (Local, Provincial and Interprovincial) and offer support in centres for older persons around Mbashe.

The status of each vulnerable group will be indicated through the following matrix:-

Older Persons

Status of the Forum	Year Established	Programs	Term	Challenges
The forum is in existence	2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness campaigns (i.e. 16 days of activism) • Human rights awareness 	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of funding for Older Persons projects that are in their centres in order for them to be run smoothly

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop capacity building programmes focusing on entrepreneurial skills, business development and mentoring and coaching youth in business 			
To ensure youth are involved in activities that enhance social cohesion and their civic participation in society.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrading of sport and recreation facilities and organizing various sporting events Providing capacity development programmes for youth in leadership position in civic society organization. 	Departments of Education and Social Development; Sport Arts Recreation and Culture Civil Society and Mbhashe Municipality	Budget	On a quarterly basis

Women

Strategic Objectives	Key activities	Whom will it involve	Resource needed	Timelines
To ensure women have access to education and training opportunities regardless of race, gender, disability, geographical location and socio-economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify training and educational needs of women. 	Department of Education Civil Society and Mbhashe Municipality	Budget	On a quarterly basis

status.			SAPS, Departments of Social Development, Health and Education and Mbhashe Municipality	Budget	On a quarterly basis
To ensure women are protected from discrimination, exploitation and any other physical, emotional or moral harm or hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy for women rights and raising awareness on the need for gender equity • Involving men in gender issues to address gender issues affecting women. • Ensuring employees are aware of sexual harassment policy and that sexual harassment is treated as a serious offence • To ensure that safety measures in place for women 		Department of Health, Department of Justice, SAPS, Department of Social Development, Civil Society and Mbhashe Municipality	Budget	On a quarterly basis
To improve the health profile of all women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy for women rights and raising awareness on the need for gender equity • Involving men in gender issues to address gender issues affecting women. 		Department of Health, Department of Justice, SAPS, Department of Social Development, Civil Society and Mbhashe Municipality	Budget	On a quarterly basis
To mainstream economic needs of women in all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising the visibility and availability of training programmes to empower aspirant 		Department of Economic Affairs	Budget	On a quarterly basis

economic empowerment programmes in the Municipality.	business owners; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging in preferred local procurement focusing on women goods and Service providers. 	and Environmental Affairs Department of Public Works and Mbhashe Municipality	
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Older Persons

Strategic objective	Key activities	Whom will it involve	Resource needed	Timelines
To ensure older persons are protected from discrimination, exploitation and any other physical, emotional or moral harm or hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmes aimed at sensitizing the public on the special needs of the older persons and dispelling the myths of old age. 	SAPS, Department of Social Development, Civil Society and Mbhashe Municipality	Budget	On a quarterly basis
To provide appropriate, accessible and affordable health care at primary, secondary and tertiary facilities for older persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmes aimed at sensitizing the public on the special needs of the older persons A strong commitment to supporting community and home-based care services. 	Department of Social Development, Department of Health, Mbhashe Municipality and Civil Society	Budget	On a quarterly basis

<p>To promote independent living and the ability of the Older Persons to function at the highest potential.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of community plans of action that address the restoration of the dignity and respect for older persons through developing mechanisms to remove discrimination against older persons • Capacity building through skills development provided to older persons • Involving older people in the decisions which affect their lives • Delivering integrated services which will target/ benefit the older persons 	<p>Department of Social Development, Mbhashe Municipality and Civil Society</p>	<p>Budget</p>	<p>On a quarterly basis</p>
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People with Disabilities

<p>To increase public awareness and education on issues of disabilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public campaigns focusing on fostering respect for the rights and dignity of people with disabilities; combating stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices relating to people with disabilities in all areas of life; • Promoting awareness of the capabilities and contributions of people with disabilities; • Promoting positive visibility of persons with 	<p>Department of Education, Department of Social development, Mbhashe Municipality and Civil Society</p>	<p>Budget</p>	<p>On a quarterly basis</p>
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<p>To ensure that people with disabilities have access to quality education and training system that transforms their lives.</p>	<p>disabilities by ensuring appropriate representation in the democratic process; and ensuring public awareness of disability sensitive terminology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking appropriate measures to ensure people with disabilities have access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas. These measures shall include the identification and elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility. 		
<p>Working with the Eastern Cape Education Department focusing on eliminating all forms of barriers to learning so as to enable all learners to access education and receive support. This will involve identifying, screening, assessing and appropriately placing learners and empowering educator</p>	<p>Department of Education, Department of Social development, Mbhashe Municipality and Civil Society</p>	<p>Budget</p>	<p>On a quarterly basis</p>

	<p>and education officials to effectively discharge this responsibility. Early identification and encouraging participation in Early Childhood Development (ECD) phase is particularly important as it lays foundation for future learning throughout one's life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging adult people with disabilities to participate in Adult Basic Education Programmes offered by the Eastern Cape Education Department. • Rolling out "Back to School Campaigns" to ensure that children with disabilities are enrolled in educational institutions and make communities aware of educational opportunities available • Ensuring that people with disabilities benefit from learnerships, bursaries, internships and other skills development programmes in the Municipality. • Lobbying the Eastern Cape Health Department to ensure specialized health personnel and services are made available for 	Department of Health Department of Social Development,	Budget	On a quarterly basis
To provide appropriate, accessible and affordable health care at primary,				

secondary and tertiary facilities	<p>people with disabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring people with disabilities benefit equitably from opportunities, initiatives and special projects for economic empowerment and participating in Small Medium and Micro Enterprise (SMME) development initiatives. Ensuring equal access to finance and capital should be made available and opportunities to access natural and necessary resources should be promoted. Creating programmes to support and encourage people with disabilities to create their own employment opportunities. Ensuring people with disabilities benefit equitably from business skills development programmes offered in the Municipality. Implementing measures to ensure the employment equity targets for people with disabilities are met by the Municipality and other institutions operating within the boundaries of the Municipality 	Mbhashe Municipality and Civil Society	Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs, Mbhashe Municipality and Civil Society	Budget	On a quarterly basis
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HIV & AIDS				
<p>To combating the spread of HIV and AIDS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstreaming HIV and TB and its gender- and rights based dimensions into the core mandate of the Municipality; • Addressing social, cultural, economic and behavioural drivers of HIV, STI and TB through the implementation of HIV & AIDS education and awareness programmes; • Implement interventions to address gender norms and gender based-violence; • Reduce the vulnerability of young people to HIV infection by retaining them in schools as well as increasing access to post-school education and work opportunities; • Reduce HIV and TB related stigma and discrimination; • To improve availability and promotion of effective condom use, • To encourage voluntary counselling and testing (VCT); 	<p>All government Department and Civil Society</p>	<p>Budget</p>	<p>On a quarterly basis</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote sexual behavioural change; • To reduce stigma attached to HIV and AIDS; • To improve management of sexual transmitted infections 		
Improving access to health care services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximizing opportunities for testing and screening to ensure that people are tested for HIV and screened for TB and appropriately enrolled in wellness and treatment, care and support programmes; • Promoting healthy behaviours, and to address norms and behaviours that put people at risk for HIV, STIs and TB; • Address sexual abuse and improve services for survivors of sexual assault; • Creating a conducive environment to access treatment, care and support; • Creating support systems for people living with HIV through establishment and strengthening the support groups for the infected and affected; and • To enhance the image and status of the 	Department of Social Development, Department of Health, Mbashe Municipality and Civil Society	Budget On a quarterly basis

	infected and affected within the communities (psycho-social support).			
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SPORT

Strategic objective	Key activities	Whom it will involve	Resource	Timelines
To ensure that sport activities are catered and looked for by the Municipality	Facilitate upgrading of sport facilities and organising various sporting events	Department of Community Services, Infrastructure, SPU, Department of Sport and Sport Council	Budget	On quarterly basis

CONCLUSION

This strategy serves as a guiding tool in implementation of the Special Programmes activities which will be reviewed annually.