

30 YEAR REVIEW REPORT OF MPUMALANGA'S DEMOCRACY (1994 - 2024)



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ACRONYMS

AsgiSA.....	Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa
AI.....	Artificial Intelligence
ART.....	Antiretroviral therapy
BBBEE.....	Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment
CIPC.....	Companies and Intellectual Property Commission
CRDP.....	Comprehensive Rural Development Programme
CHRRP.....	Coal Haulage Road Rehabilitation Programme
DIP.....	Delivery Improvement Process
DR TB.....	Drug-resistant tuberculosis
ECD.....	Early Childhood Development
EPI.....	Economic Performance Index
EPWP.....	Expanded Public Works Programme
EPZ.....	Export-processing zones
FDI.....	Foreign direct investment
GDP.....	Gross Domestic Product
GEAR.....	Growth, Employment, and Redistribution
GFC.....	Global Financial Crisis
GNP.....	Government Nutrition Programme
GVA.....	Gross Value Addition
IDIP.....	Infrastructure Delivery Improvement Process
IDMS.....	Infrastructure Delivery Management System
IUDG.....	Integrated Urban Development Grant
JOC.....	Joint Operations Committee
MDR-TB.....	Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis
MEGDP.....	Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Path
MERRP.....	Mpumalanga Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan
MIDP.....	Mpumalanga Industrial Development Plan
MIFPM.....	Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market
MIG.....	Municipal Infrastructure Grant
MMS.....	Maintenance Management System

NDP 2030.....	National Development Plan
NIE.....	Newly Industrialised Economies
NSC.....	National Senior Certificate
PGDS	Provincial Growth and Development Strategy
PMOM.....	Project Managers Operations Management
PPP.....	Public Private Partnerships
PPICC.....	Premier's Provincial Infrastructure Coordinating Committee
QES.....	Quarterly Employment Statistics
QLFS.....	Quarterly Labour Force Survey
PRMG.....	Provincial Roads Maintenance Grant
PSET	Post-School Education and Training
RAMS.....	Road Asset Management System
RBIG.....	Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant
RDP.....	Reconstruction and Development Programme
SAMRC.....	South African Medical Research Council
SETA.....	Sector Education and Training Authority
SEZ.....	Special Economic Zone
SMMEs.....	Small, Micro and Medium Enterprise
TB.....	Tuberculosis
TFDS.....	Total Foreign Direct Spending
UNFPA.....	United Nations Population Fund
WGI.....	Worldwide Governance Indicators
WSIG.....	Water Services Infrastructure Grants

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FOREWORD BY PREMIER



It is with great satisfaction that I present the 30-year review report on the socio-economic development and trajectory of Mpumalanga Province from 1994 to 2024. This document reflects three decades of democratic governance, highlighting the resilience of the province's citizens, collaborative efforts among all spheres of government, communities, and stakeholders that have shaped Mpumalanga. The introduction of democracy in 1994 initiated a period of renewed optimism and opportunity for both the province and the country as a whole. Throughout these three decades, concerted efforts have been made to advance the principles of non-racialism, equality, human rights, social justice, and prosperity.

The report offers comprehensive insights into South Africa's progress since the advent of democracy, highlighting the key legislations, policies, strategies, and plans that have been formulated and executed. Notable advancements have been achieved in improving the quality of life for citizens.

Access to essential services, including housing, education and skills development, healthcare, food security, safety and security, social and economic infrastructure, and economic growth, has been expanded. We acknowledge the efforts of previous administrations, from the 1st Administration in 1994 through the 6th Administration in 2024, for establishing a strong foundation and guiding progress. The information presented in this report documents past achievements and provides direction for future initiatives.

As we mark three decades of transformation, we acknowledge the challenges that persist. We reaffirm our commitment to advancing the fundamental development of our province and its people. We recognise the ongoing disparities across various dimensions, including those between black and white, rich and poor, skilled and unskilled, employed and unemployed, urban and rural, educated and uneducated, and housed and unhoused populations. Accordingly, we remain dedicated in promoting social, environmental, and economic justice.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the voters of Mpumalanga Province for supporting the continuation of this democratic government. We remain committed to advancing the effective implementation of our policies, strategies, plans, and programmes designed to address poverty, unemployment, and inequality. Collaborative effort in executing these initiatives will be essential to achieving meaningful and sustainable outcomes.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the team, the entire Provincial Administration, and the Executive Council for their participation and valuable contributions in compiling this report.

Let us continue to grow Mpumalanga together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'MP Ndlovu'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mr MP NDLOVU

PREMIER: MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Date: 06 / 11 / 2025

CHAPTER *[1]*

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW



MPUMALANGA'S DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION

The 1994 historic democratic birth of the Mpumalanga Province ushered a new dawn of hope to the previously disadvantaged people of Mpumalanga while other parts of the population who were privileged were engulfed with fear, hopelessness and to some extent uncertainty and anger. The democratic dispensation offered an opportunity to build a Province that belonged to all who lived in it, without discrimination, racial laws, sexism and tribalism.

Since 1994 the Mpumalanga Provincial Government has sought to restore the dignity of all its citizens through economic transformation. Despite inheriting fragmented and polarised communities from the former homelands of Bophuthatswana, Gazankulu, KaNgwane, KwaNdebele, KwaZulu and parts of the Transvaal Administration, the past 30 years have provided hope to many citizens. At the dawn of democracy, the Mpumalanga Province had several municipalities comprising of TLC's (Transitional Local Councils) and TRC's (Transitional Rural Councils) under the then Eastvaal District Council now Gert Sibande District Council; Highveld District Council now Nkangala District Council and the Lowveld Escarpment District Council, now referred to as Ehlanzeni District Council. These municipalities were amalgamated and gave birth to the new developmental local Government boundaries aimed at accelerating the delivery of basic services.

This 30-year review provides a foundation for evaluating the milestones the Provincial Government managed to achieve, as well as the pitfalls and challenges encountered over the same period based on the overarching plans of the national and Provincial Governments, to date.

The general orientation of Government priorities has evolved to reflect the state of developmental change and the shifting context. The major focus of Government in the first decade of democracy (1994-2004) was to establish democratic institutions, drive fundamental transformation through the RDP, foster reconciliation and nation-building, reintegrate the country internationally, build a unitary state and form a "New South Africa" identity supported by new symbols such as the South African flag, national anthem, the coat of arms, etc. In the second decade of democracy (2004-2014), the focus shifted towards sustaining the gains and enhancing Government performance to accelerate development. In the third decade (2014-2024), the focus has been to consolidate the gains of democracy in pursuing the NDP 2030 Vision 2030 (National 30 year review report, 2023).

Figure 1: Orientation of Government priorities in the three decades of democracy



Addressing unemployment, poverty, and deprivation (and economic stagnation & decline) was the priority of the democratic Government through the introduction of various economic reforms such as the RDP.

From a population of just under 3 million people in 1994 to a population of 5.1 million in 2022 according to Census 2022, Mpumalanga is not immune to the challenges facing the Republic of South Africa.

WHAT THE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT INHERITED IN 1994

Our history has been a bitter one dominated by colonialism, racism, apartheid, sexism, and repressive labour policies & practices. The result was that poverty and degradation existed side by side with modern cities and developed mining, industrial and commercial infrastructure. Our income distribution was racially distorted and ranked as one of the most unequal in the world - lavish wealth and abject poverty characterised our society.

Poverty was, and still is, the single greatest burden on South Africa's people, and is the direct result of the apartheid system and the grossly skewed nature of business and industrial development which accompanied it. Poverty affects millions of people, the majority of whom live in the rural areas and are women. In 1994, it was estimated that there were at least 17 million people surviving below the Minimum Living Level in South Africa, and of those at least 11 million lived in rural areas. For those intent on fomenting violence, these conditions provided fertile ground.

It is not merely the lack of income that determined poverty, but a substantial proportion of extremely basic needs were unmet. In attacking poverty and deprivation, the RDP aimed to set South Africa firmly on the road to eliminating hunger, providing land and housing to all our people, providing access to safe water and sanitation for all, ensuring the availability of affordable and sustainable energy sources, eliminating illiteracy, raising the quality of education and training for children and adults, protecting the environment, and improving our health services and making them accessible to all.

With a per capita Gross National Product of more than R8 500 South Africa was classified as an upper middle-income country. Given its resources, South Africa could afford to feed, house, educate and provide health care for all its citizens. Yet apartheid and economic exploitation had created the gross and unnecessary inequalities among us.

The economy was built on systematically enforced racial and segregationally spatial division in every sphere of our society. Rural areas were divided into underdeveloped Bantustans and well-developed white suburbs, and adequately serviced white-owned commercial farming areas. Towns and cities were divided into townships without basic infrastructure for blacks and well-resourced suburbs for whites.

Segregation in education, health, welfare, transport, and employment left deep scars of inequality and economic disparities amongst the society. In commerce and industry, large conglomerates dominated by whites control large parts of the economy. Cheap labour policies and employment segregation concentrated skills in white hands. Our workers were poorly equipped for the rapid changes taking place in the world economy. Small and medium-sized enterprises were underdeveloped, while highly protected industries underinvested in research, development, and training.

The result was that in every sphere of our society - economic, social, political, moral, cultural, environmental - South Africans were confronted by serious problems. There was not a single sector of South African society, nor a person living in South Africa, untouched by the ravages of apartheid.

In its dying years, apartheid unleashed a vicious wave of violence. Thousands and thousands of people were brutally murdered, maimed, and forced from their homes. Security forces had all too often failed to act to protect people, and had frequently been accused of being implicated in, and

even fomenting, the violence. We were close to creating a culture of violence in which no person could feel any sense of security in their person and property. The spectre of poverty and/or violence haunted millions of our people. (RDP document: 1994)

MPUMALANGA'S DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

The Preamble of the Constitution 'walks before' the subsequent text. It guides the signification of the Constitution and how it should be read. The first thing the Preamble does is to nullify the previous order of differentiation. The first words state: "We, the people of South Africa". Instead of simply being a cursory phrase, this is a powerful expression of being. It unites all in South Africa. Not only as equals under the law but in the responsibility of purpose. The second directive is the building of a transformative society. One where the past is recognised ("Honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land; Respect those who have worked to build and develop our country") and a just and equal society is collectively built ("Heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights") (The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996). The transformative nature of the Constitution is such that progress is built over time and through the relationship between citizens.

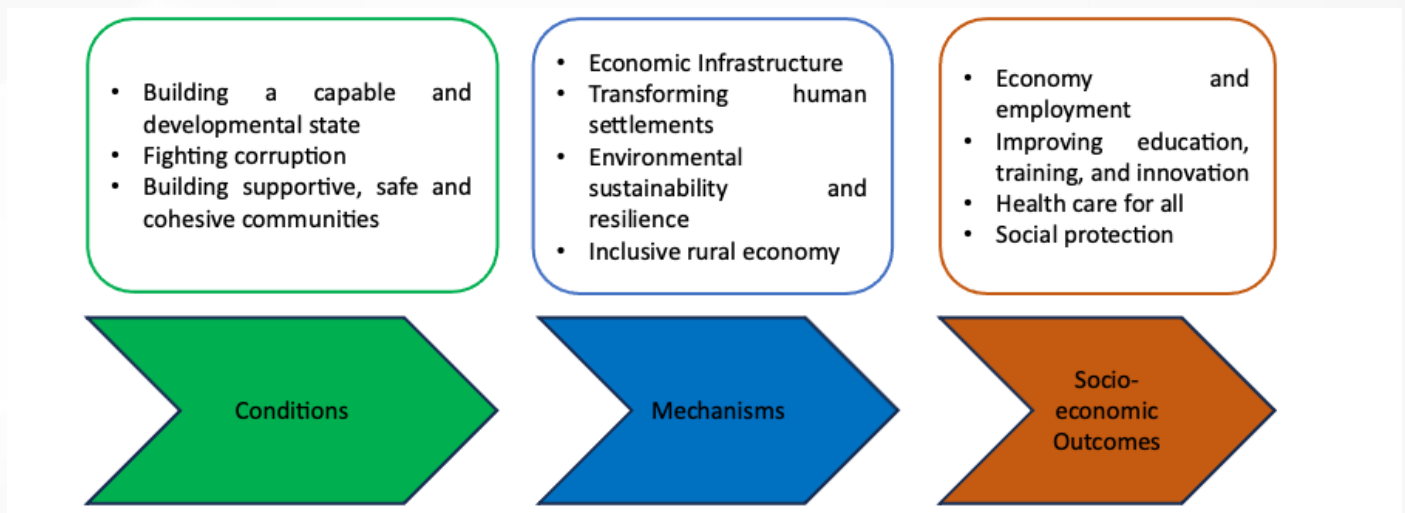
One of the goals set in the Preamble is the improvement in the quality of life of citizens. There has been candid admission from the current administration that the state could have done more in this regard. The South African Government is committed to becoming effective in improving the lives of citizens. "To achieve any progress", said President Ramaphosa in his 2023 State of the Nation address, "we need a capable and effective State. Our greatest weaknesses are in state-owned enterprises and local Government" (Ramaphosa, 2023). Mathebula (2023) points to state capability being both human and institutional. According to Mathebula (2023), "the Constitution settles the duality of where state capability is located by providing that an organ of the state is any state Department, administration, institution, or any other functionary in all spheres of Government which exercises power or performs a public function in terms of the Constitution or legislation. In terms of this provision, all public servants are as much an organ of the state as the institutions. This means that the most significant focus of any capacity-building interventions should be targeted at the bottom of the pyramid of state personnel" (Mathebula, 2023). Mathebula's interpretation of the state official as the direct representation of Government offers an interesting take on subsidiarity.

Mpumalanga's development trajectory is predicated by the Constitution and was designed in line with the National development framework set by the national Government. The national Government developed various policies which were implemented since 1994 to date (2024), 30 years ago. This includes, but not limited to, the RDP, GEAR, ASGI-SA, New Growth Path and the NDP 2030, which are the country's economic reform programmes of Government meant to deliver a better South Africa for all.

In line with the NDP 2030, the Mpumalanga Vision 2030 Strategic Implementation Framework (2013-2030) was developed. MP Vision 2030 seeks to present and affirm the Province's approach towards realising the adopted and articulated national vision and development plan. The decision to develop a long-term strategic implementation framework emanates from the desire within the Mpumalanga Provincial Government to ensure that the Province and other stakeholders work with a common purpose for the development of the Province and its constitutive geographical areas.

¹ Subsidiarity is the principle of allowing the individual members of a large organization to make decisions on issues that affect them, rather than leaving those decisions to be made by the whole group

Figure 2: Mpumalanga Vision 2030: Strategic Implementation Framework



In structuring the Mpumalanga Vision 2030 Strategic Implementation Framework, careful attention is focused on ensuring that there is close synergy between the implementation framework's contents and the provisions and choices defined in the national Vision 2030 plan. The implementation framework builds on sectorial and related planning interventions which have unfolded within the Province. The orientation towards crafting the framework is to ensure that it remains simple and accessible, without losing the substance and complexity of the development process in the Province as is reflected in Vision 2030.

The Mpumalanga Vision 2030 Implementation Plan is furthermore directed towards decision-making and action at the macro policy level as a guide to all governance levels within the Province. In so doing, attempts were made to ensure that the implementation framework establishes a balance between detail and the articulation of clear and constant high-level Provincial targets and strategies at the strategic level. It can be used to facilitate decision-making and prioritisation, to inform choices and trade-offs, and to shape action within and outside of Government. A key element in this approach was to ensure that the plan incorporates a focused spatial representation of the content and intention.

It also outlined that the economy should improve economic policy coordination and implementation, building partnerships between the public sector, business and labour to facilitate, direct and promote investment in labour-intensive areas. Raising competitiveness in export earnings through better infrastructure and Public servicess, lowering the costs of doing business, improving skills and innovations, and targeting state form part of the vision and the Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Path.

The Mpumalanga 30-Year Review study aimed to assess the strides made to transform the Mpumalanga economy over the 30 years and identify the successes and failures, documenting lessons learnt that could inform decision-making from the seventh administration going forward. Celebrating successes provides an opportunity to identify approaches and models that are effective and efficient; an honest assessment of the reasons certain objectives were not met, and establish a foundation for improvement in planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

METHODOLOGY AND DELIMITATIONS

The chapters of the 30-Year Review are based on the objectives of the NDP 2030, which is an existing long-term plan for the country, as well as the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF 2019-2024), which reflects the priorities of the 6th administration. The themes covered are by no means exhaustive. This approach has assisted in directing the research effort and organising the presentation of findings and recommendations. Each theme addresses the same set of questions about change and transformation.

The 30-Year Review builds on similar previous reviews that the Government has produced – at ten, fifteen, twenty, and twenty-five years – to provide an account of significant milestones. It builds on other key Government reports such as the Population Census, Development Indicators, 10-Year Review of the NDP 2030), etc., and other evidence sources in the public, private, and international institutions. The review process utilised a literature review of national and Provincial economic reports and engagement with respective Provincial officials.

Figure 3: Key Review Questions and Process

REVIEW QUESTIONS



PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REVIEW REPORT



Figure 4: Thematic areas of the report



CONTEXT

A plethora of Provincial, national, regional and global factors impacted the policy environment and development outcomes with varying degrees. These include the demographic makeup with regard to youth, labour market, economic growth drivers, conflicts and geo-politics, climate change, technological change, increase in social needs, globalisation, and interactions between the state and non-state actors.

Geographic size

Mpumalanga Province occupies 76 495 square kilometres of land in South Africa. The land mass occupied by the Province is the second smallest. Gauteng Province is the least endowed amongst the nine Provinces land-wise. The Gauteng Province occupies 18 178 square kilometres of land.

Population size

Table 1: Distribution of the population and percentage change Province, Census 1996-2022

Province	1996	2001	% change (1996-2001)	2011	% change (2001-2011)	2022	% change (2011-2022)
Western Cape	3 956 875	4 524 335	14,3	5 822 734	28,7	7 433 019	27,7
Eastern Cape	6 147 244	6 278 651	2,1	6 562 053	4,5	7 230 204	10,2
Northern Cape	1 011 864	991 876	-2,0	1 145 861	15,5	1 355 946	18,3
Free State	2 633 504	2 706 775	2,8	2 745 590	1,4	2 964 412	8,0
KwaZulu-Natal	8 572 302	9 584 129	11,8	10 267 300	7,1	12 423 907	21,0
North West	2 726 828	2 982 064	9,4	3 509 953	17,7	3 804 548	8,4
Gauteng	7 834 620	9 390 528	19,9	12 272 263	30,7	15 099 422	23,0
Mpumalanga	3 124 203	3 365 957	7,7	4 039 939	20,0	5 143 324	27,3
Limpopo	4 576 133	4 995 462	9,2	5 404 868	8,2	6 572 721	21,6
South Africa	40 583 573	44 819 778	10,4	51 770 560	15,5	62 027 503	19,8

Source: STATS SA, Census 2022

Mpumalanga's population has grown from 3 124 203 in 1996 to 5 143 324 in 2022. The population of Mpumalanga Province exhibits natural growth with minimal migration of people into the Province. The migration of people out of the Province has also been minimal with most emigration going the Gauteng, apparently for perceived better economic opportunities and for family reasons. The most significant movement of people in the Mpumalanga has been internal, i.e. people moving from one municipality to another, usually intra-Provincial rural to urban migration. The main reason for this kind of movement is marriage and employment opportunities.

The Mpumalanga population increased to 5 143 324 (8.3% of the national population) with 52% females and 48% males, according to Census 2022 and is one of the Provinces that recorded a net migration, indicating that it is a destination of choice. Mpumalanga is the 6th biggest Province by population distribution in the country.

Table 2: Mpumalanga's population by Sex 1996 - 2022

Mpumalanga	Census Year	Males	Females	Total
	1996	1 505 594	1 618 610	3 124 203
	2001	1 603 578	1 762 379	3 365 957
	2011	1 974 055	2 065 883	4 039 939
	2022	2 469 055	2 673 530	5 143 324

Source: STATS SA, Census 2022

From a population of just under 3 million people in 1994 to a population of 5.1 million in 2022 according to Census 2022, Mpumalanga is not immune to the challenges facing the Republic of South Africa. In 1996, Mpumalanga Province had 670 511 households. The number of households increased to 820 328 in 2001. Beyond 2001, the number of households went beyond the 1 000 000 marks. The 2011 census shows that the number of households rose to 1 075 466. In 2022, the number of households in Mpumalanga Province were 1 421 721.

Population composition by race

Black Africans have increased from 91% in 1996 to 95% in 2022, whilst Whites have decreased from 8% to 3,6%, and Coloured and Indians/Asians at 0,6% and 0,5%, respectively, remained unchanged.

Table 3: Distribution of the population by population group and Province, Census 1996-2022

Mpumalanga	Census Year	Black African	Coloured	Indian/Asian	White	Other	Total
	1996	2 827 503	20 394	12 941	245 250	-	3 106 089
	2001	3 135 485	22 429	10 964	197 080	-	3 365 957
	2011	3 662 219	36 611	27 917	303 595	9 597	4 039 939
	2022	4 898 063	32 100	25 882	185 731	440	5 142 216

Source: STATS SA, Census 2022

Age structure

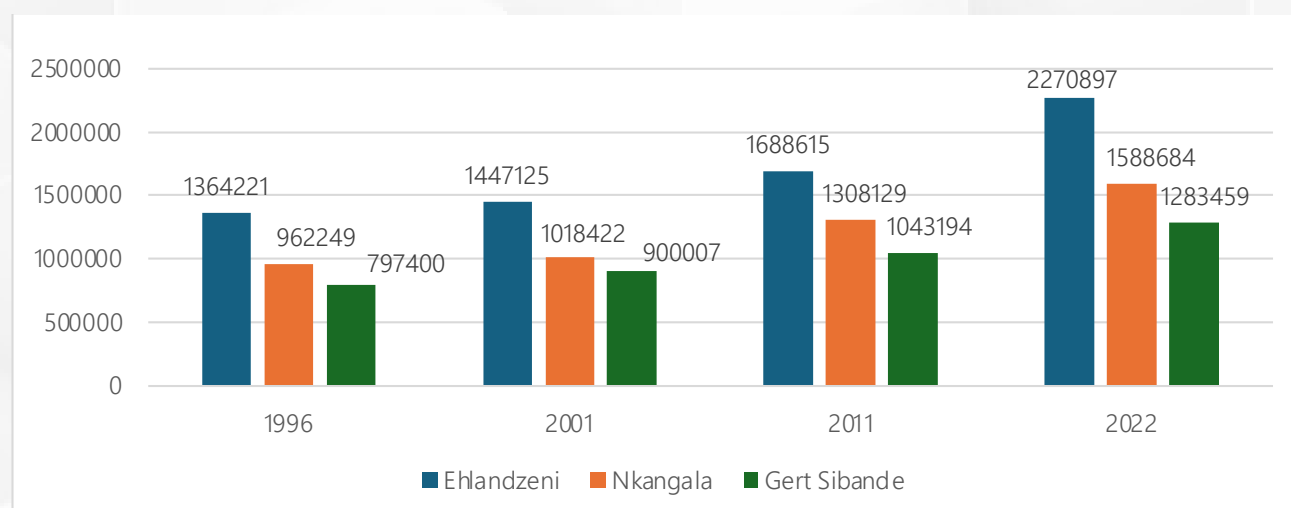
Overall, the results show that the South African population remains relatively young and youthful, with the majority concentrated in the age groups 0–39 years. Mpumalanga is among the three Provinces that recorded the highest proportion of youth between 25–34 years, ranging between 8,7% and 10,5% as set out in Table 4.

Table 4: Percentage distribution of the population by 5-year age groups and Province, Census 2022

Age group	Province									
	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	South Africa
0–4	7,9	10,0	9,5	8,9	9,3	10,3	8,6	10,6	11,5	9,4
5–9	7,0	9,2	9,0	8,5	8,6	8,8	6,9	8,8	10,1	8,2
10–14	7,5	10,2	9,3	9,3	9,3	9,2	7,1	9,1	10,1	8,7
15–19	7,2	9,2	9,2	8,7	8,6	8,4	6,8	8,2	8,6	8,0
20–24	8,7	7,8	8,5	8,3	8,5	8,5	9,1	9,0	8,0	8,6
25–29	9,4	8,1	8,0	8,4	9,2	8,5	10,5	9,5	8,4	9,2
30–34	9,2	7,2	7,6	8,4	9,1	8,4	10,7	9,2	7,6	9,0
35–39	9,1	6,8	7,1	8,0	8,5	7,9	9,9	8,3	6,8	8,4
40–44	7,5	5,6	6,3	6,5	6,5	6,6	7,9	6,3	5,6	6,7
45–49	5,8	4,9	5,5	5,3	5,0	5,3	5,7	5,1	5,0	5,3
50–54	5,2	4,4	5,1	4,7	4,1	4,4	4,6	4,2	4,2	4,5
55–59	4,5	4,3	4,4	4,4	3,8	4,1	3,8	3,7	4,0	4,0
60–64	3,8	4,1	3,7	3,7	3,2	3,5	3,1	2,9	3,3	3,4
65–69	2,8	3,2	2,8	2,9	2,6	2,5	2,3	2,2	2,5	2,6
70–74	2,0	2,1	1,7	1,8	1,7	1,6	1,4	1,3	1,7	1,7
75–79	1,3	1,3	1,1	1,1	1,0	1,0	0,9	0,8	1,1	1,1
80–84	0,7	0,9	0,6	0,6	0,6	0,6	0,5	0,5	0,8	0,6
85 +	0,5	0,7	0,4	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,4	0,4	0,8	0,5
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: STATS SA, Census 2022

As per the 2022 census, 44.2% of Mpumalanga's population is concentrated in Ehlanzeni, 30,9% in Nkangala and 25.0% in Gert Sibande. Furthermore, females constituted the majority of the population in Ehlanzeni (52.8%), Gert Sibande (51.7%), as well as in Nkangala (51.0%). In 2022, 66.0% of Ehlanzeni's population was younger than 35 years of age, followed by Gert Sibande (64.3%) and Nkangala (61.8%).

Figure 5: Population trends by District Municipality, 1996-2022

Source: Census 2022

The population of Ehlanzeni has doubled in the past 30 years with a sharp increase witnessed between 2011 and 2022. Contrary to the increase witnessed in Ehlanzeni, Nkangala and Gert Sibande districts witnessed a decrease. Nkangala population increased from 1,13% to 2,5% and then decreased by 1,9%. Gert Sibande population increased by 2,4% and decreased to 1,48% and then improved by 2% by year 2022.

CHAPTER *[2]*

BUILDING A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE



This chapter examines governance in the Province, looking at the good governance, GDP per capita, corruption, political stability, and rule of law, the quality of policies and regulations indices.

South Africa transitioned 30 years ago in 1994 from a governance system of separate development to a flourishing democracy - became the doyen of peaceful transition and democracy in Africa and beyond. Hence, South Africa is one of the better-governed countries in Africa, where governance is often poor, to say the least. Governance and administration are partially devolved to the nine Provinces. Mpumalanga is one of these nine Provinces in the country; thus the study will disaggregate the South African governance data to focus on the Province.

The Mpumalanga Province had a GDP of ZAR 531.771 billion in 2022 and was ranked fourth in the country, while the Province had the second-highest unemployment rate, using the expanded definition of unemployment. While economic performance is not part of the remit for this section on Government it has a cause-and-effect relationship with governance, hence the mention here.

Table 5 summarises the indicators included in the WGI and used in the analysis of good governance in this study.

Table 5: Summary of Selected Indicators of Good Governance in the Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

#	INDICATOR	ABBREVIATION	DESCRIPTION
1.	Good Governance Index	GGOV	Indicates the quality-of-service delivery, Civil Service performance, policy formulation, and implementation.
2.	GDP per Capita	GDPC	GDP per capita is the Gross Domestic Product divided by the total population.
3.	Corruption Control Index	CORCON	Indicates the level of which public power is exerted for private gain, as well as the level of State capture.
4.	Political Stability Index	POLSTAB	Includes the absence of violence and terrorism and measures the likelihood of political instability.
5.	Rule of Law Index	ROL	The extent to which citizens abide by the rules of society, property rights, the police, and courts, as well as the likelihood of crime and violence.
6.	Quality of Policy and Regulation Index	QOPR	The ability of the Government to formulate and implement sound policies and regulations that permit and promote private sector development and participation.

Source: World Bank. 2022b. World Bank Open Data. <https://data.worldbank.org/>

Good governance is an ongoing process and not an event in which the agenda and interests of all stakeholders need to be taken into consideration to allow for cooperation (Commission for Global Governance, 1995; Meyer, 2022). Keping (2018) defines good governance as effective cooperation between Government institutions, the private sector and the communities, and the level of participation in good governance by all stakeholders. Good governance is often intertwined and intrinsically associated with equality and freedom in a democratic political system. Researchers, such as Keping (2018), have identified a few concepts which succinctly explain good governance, and these include:

1. **Improved legitimacy:** through the maximisation of consent and approval of Government activities by the citizens. This consent and approval by citizens can be achieved through building sufficient consensus.
2. **Transparency:** which pertains to the availability of and access to information such as policies and budgets and allows for participation by citizens.
3. **Accountability:** which relates to the fact that public officials must fulfil their functions and obligations linked to the positions they occupy and if not, they should take responsibility for their actions or lack thereof.
4. **The rule of law:** which means that the law of the country must be respected and upheld by all Government officials and citizens, and all are equal before the law.
5. **Responsiveness:** The Government and its officials must respond to citizens' demands in a timely and responsible manner.
6. **Efficiency:** a well-designed administrative structure and procedures with flexibility resulting in minimisation of administrative costs.

NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ASPIRATIONS

The RDP of 1994 and related public sector policy and legal frameworks laid the foundation for a new governance system for South Africa. The 1996 Constitution sought to transform governance practices towards the rights-based democratic ethos by promoting equality, human dignity, impartiality, freedom and openness, and fundamental principles and values of public administration.

The President appointed the NPC in May 2010 to draft a vision and national development plan. As part of the process, the Commission released a Diagnostic Report on the shortcomings and achievements of the country since 1994. This report was welcomed as a constructive assessment and led to the development of the draft national plan, released in November 2011. The Commission consulted widely on this plan and as part of this process, the MPG initiated consultations across all its districts.

Subsequently, the MP Vision 2030 was established as a direct implementation response to the NDP 2030. It seeks to present and affirm the Province's approach towards realising the adopted and articulated national vision and development plan. The decision to develop a long-term strategic implementation framework emanates from the desire within the Mpumalanga Provincial Government to ensure that the Province and other stakeholders work with a common purpose for the development of the Province and its constitutive geographical areas.

These WGI, developed by the World Bank (World Bank, 2022a) have become the most common and widely accepted indicators to measure good governance of states across the globe. The WGI includes six indicators to measure good governance, and the indexes for the various variables range between -2.5 to 2.5, the higher the index the better the governance. This study adopts the WGI as the main set of indicators for governance that will be used to assess the progress made in the Mpumalanga Province over the 30 years of democracy in South Africa from 1994 to 2024.

² The expanded unemployment definition refers to persons between the ages of 15 and 64 who are without jobs, willing and able to work but are not actively searching for jobs. This is the official definition according to Statistics, South Africa.

The NDP 2030 sees a capable and developmental state as a requirement for achieving the developmental objectives. A developmental state intervenes to correct historical inequalities and plays a transformative role in creating opportunities for more people. A capable state is professional, insulated from undue political pressure, competent and responsive to the needs of all citizens.

Building a professional Public Service requires:

- Stabilising the political-administrative interface by creating an Administrative Head of the Public Service responsible for managing the career progression of Heads of Department. In addition, the PSC should champion and monitor norms and standards for appointment to senior positions and human resources management should be located with the Head of Department.
- Making the Public Service and local Government a career of choice through graduate recruitment, skills development and assessment, placements, and secondments. This includes building confidence in the recruitment and appointment process through a fair process and adequate criteria.
- Ensuring that staff at all levels have the authority, experience, competence and support required to do their jobs.

A second critical requirement of a capable state is improved inter-Governmental relations. This entails a clarification of roles and responsibilities, managing uneven capacity and using differentiation to ensure a better fit between the capacity and responsibilities of Provinces and municipalities. This may involve the development of regional utilities for local Government services and a less hierarchical approach to coordination for routine issues.

The developmental potential of state-owned enterprises should be improved through a focus on mandates, governance, and capacity. Specifically, public interest mandates for SOEs will improve coordination between policy and shareholder ministries by making them jointly responsible for appointing the relevant board through a credible process.

LEGISLATION, KEY POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

The NDP 2030 sets the objective of achieving a corrupt-free society, with high adherence to ethics throughout society and a Government that is accountable to its people. To achieve this objective, the following specific actions are proposed:

- The capacity of corruption-fighting agencies should be enhanced and public education should be part of the mandate of the anti-corruption agencies.
- The NACF should be strengthened and resourced.
- Expand the scope of whistle-blower protection to include disclosure to bodies other than the Public Protector and the Auditor-General. Strengthen measures to ensure the security of whistle-blowers.
- Centralize oversight of tenders of long duration or above a certain amount.
- An accountability framework should be developed linking the liability of individual public servants to their responsibilities in proportion to their seniority.
- Clear rules restricting the business interests of public servants should be developed.
- Corruption in the private sector is reported on and monitored by an agency like the Public Protector.
- Restraint-of-trade agreements for senior civil servants and politicians at all levels of Government.

³ Politics refer to a form of civil Government or constitution, an organized society, or a state as a political entity.

Achieving and sustaining supportive, safe, and cohesive communities has three broad requirements, each covered in separate chapters of the NDP 2030 being social protection, safety, and social cohesion. The first requirement involves social protection. From a community perspective, four noteworthy kinds of interventions are recommended in the NDP 2030:

- An increased supply of social workers, auxiliaries, and workers in community development and childcare
- Expanded public employment initiatives, and incentives to create opportunities for the unemployed
- Food security and nutrition strategy and campaign especially for pregnant women and young children
- Focus on competition, access, efficiency and the costs of transport, food, telecommunications and other goods and services to lower the cost of living, especially for poor households

Policy change is, therefore, a product of social, political, and economic changes, and the persistent social and economic challenges that previous policies have failed to address, the strategic interactions between civil societies, social and political movements, key stakeholders, policymakers, and Government, and the sharing and obtaining of knowledge.

Good governance is essential for social, and economic growth and development. It helps countries improve economic growth, build human capital, and strengthen social cohesion. The WGI are designed to help researchers and analysts assess broad patterns in perceptions of governance across countries and over time, hence the WGI approach was adopted for this study. Ab initio, it is important to note that the WGI is measured at a country level and not disaggregated any further to include Provinces. Thus, the researcher is only left with the option of drawing inferences to capture Provincial nuances. To achieve a nuanced Provincial picture, data from the various GHS conducted by Statistics South Africa were used to augment the data obtained from the World Bank's WGI reports.

The advantages of using the WGI are that it is aggregate data from more than 30 think tanks, international organizations, non-Governmental organizations and private firms across the world selected based on three key criteria:

- 1) they are produced by credible organizations.
- 2) they provide comparable cross-country data; and
- 3) they are regularly updated. The data reflect the diverse views on governance of many stakeholders worldwide, including tens of thousands of survey respondents and experts.

MILESTONES AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Before looking at the different selected indicators piecemeal, it is useful to first have a comprehensive view of how South Africa has been performing in terms of governance over the 30 years of democracy using internationally accepted indicators and measurement methodologies as encapsulated by the WGI developed by the World Bank (Kaufmann & Kraay, 2023). Table 6 shows South Africa's performance since 1996 to date in respect of the six (6) selected indicators. A cursory look at Table 6 reveals that South Africa has not covered itself in glory when it comes to the Political Stability, Rule of Law, Control of Corruption indicators and to a lesser extent, Government Efficiency. It is logical and plausible to deduce that the overall governance of the country is correlated to the performance of the Provinces, including Mpumalanga. Thus, it is safe to extrapolate the performance of the Mpumalanga Province from the national performance.

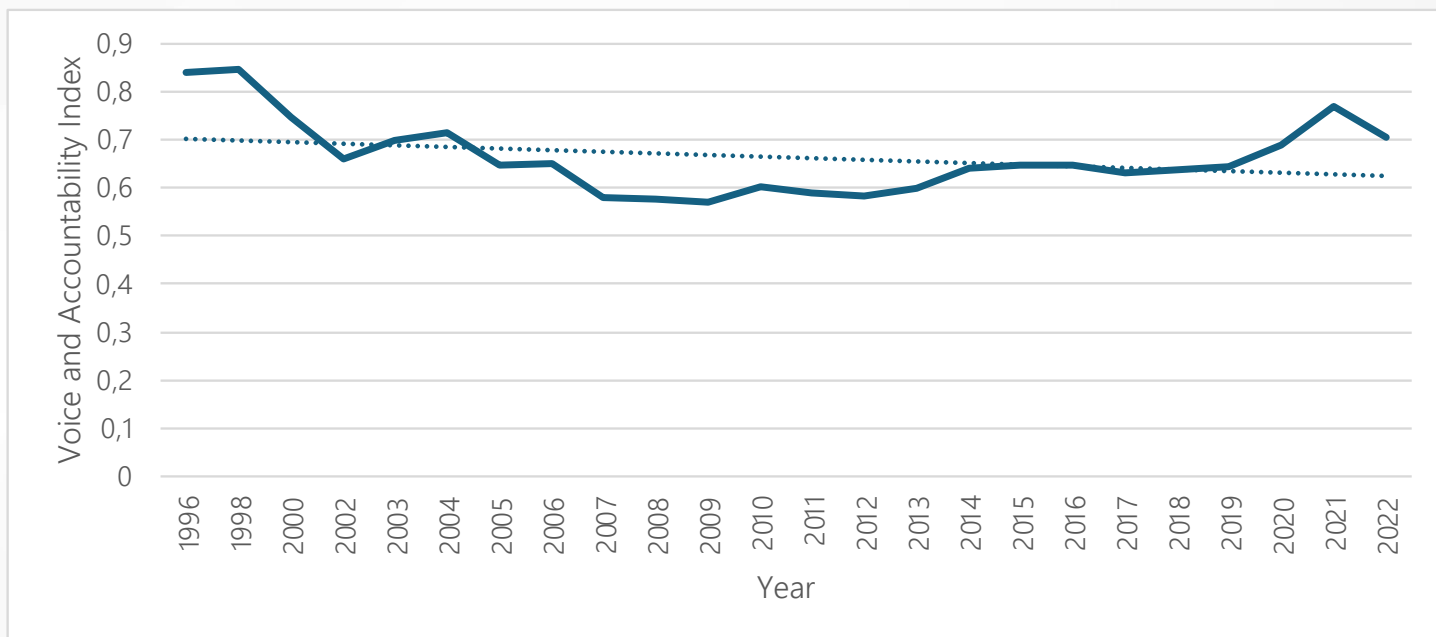
Table 6: South Africa's governance performance using the WGI, 1996-2022.

Year	Voice and Accountability Index	Political Stability Index	Government Efficiency Index	Quality of Policy & Regulation	Rule of Law Index	Corruption Control Index
1996	0.84	-0.38	1.02	0.52	0.09	0.73
1998	0.85	-0.55	0.62	0.51	0.16	0.64
2000	0.75	-0.23	0.65	0.54	0.15	0.55
2002	0.66	-0.25	0.61	0.73	0.03	0.33
2003	0.70	-0.31	0.60	0.82	0.04	0.28
2004	0.72	-0.13	0.56	0.69	0.00	0.40
2005	0.65	-0.16	0.57	0.72	-0.01	0.48
2006	0.65	0.05	0.33	0.75	0.18	0.38
2007	0.58	0.22	0.28	0.60	0.00	0.20
2008	0.58	0.05	0.33	0.66	0.01	0.15
2009	0.57	-0.11	0.31	0.45	0.07	0.13
2010	0.60	-0.03	0.19	0.45	0.10	0.07
2011	0.59	0.02	0.22	0.45	0.13	0.00
2012	0.58	-0.03	0.17	0.40	0.08	-0.18
2013	0.60	-0.05	0.31	0.38	0.14	-0.14
2014	0.64	-0.15	0.17	0.23	0.16	-0.12
2015	0.65	-0.22	0.09	0.21	0.02	-0.07
2016	0.65	-0.15	0.10	0.12	0.05	0.02
2017	0.63	-0.28	0.07	0.14	-0.16	-0.13
2018	0.64	-0.24	0.10	-0.04	-0.22	-0.14
2019	0.64	-0.28	0.13	0.01	-0.18	-0.03
2020	0.69	-0.25	0.05	0.02	-0.24	-0.06
2021	0.77	-0.75	-0.07	-0.09	0.07	-0.03
2022	0.71	-0.72	-0.13	-0.19	0.02	-0.32

Voice and Accountability Index

We start by discussing the performance of Mpumalanga around the citizens' voice in governance affairs and the accountability of the Government to the citizens using the Voice and Accountability Index. Figure 6 shows the performance of Mpumalanga using the Voice and Accountability index. It should be noted that the performance of the Mpumalanga Province under this indicator closely mirrors that of South Africa at the country level. From Figure 6 below, the performance ranges between 0.85 and 0.6 with a declining trend as indicated by the trend line. An interesting observation is that from 2004 the governance performance under this indicator was always at its highest for each of the elections/administrations the year following the election. The implication is that citizens normally find their voice around election time and the Government is often seen to be more accountable around the same which is intuitive and to be expected.

Figure 6: Voice and Accountability Index, 1996-2022.

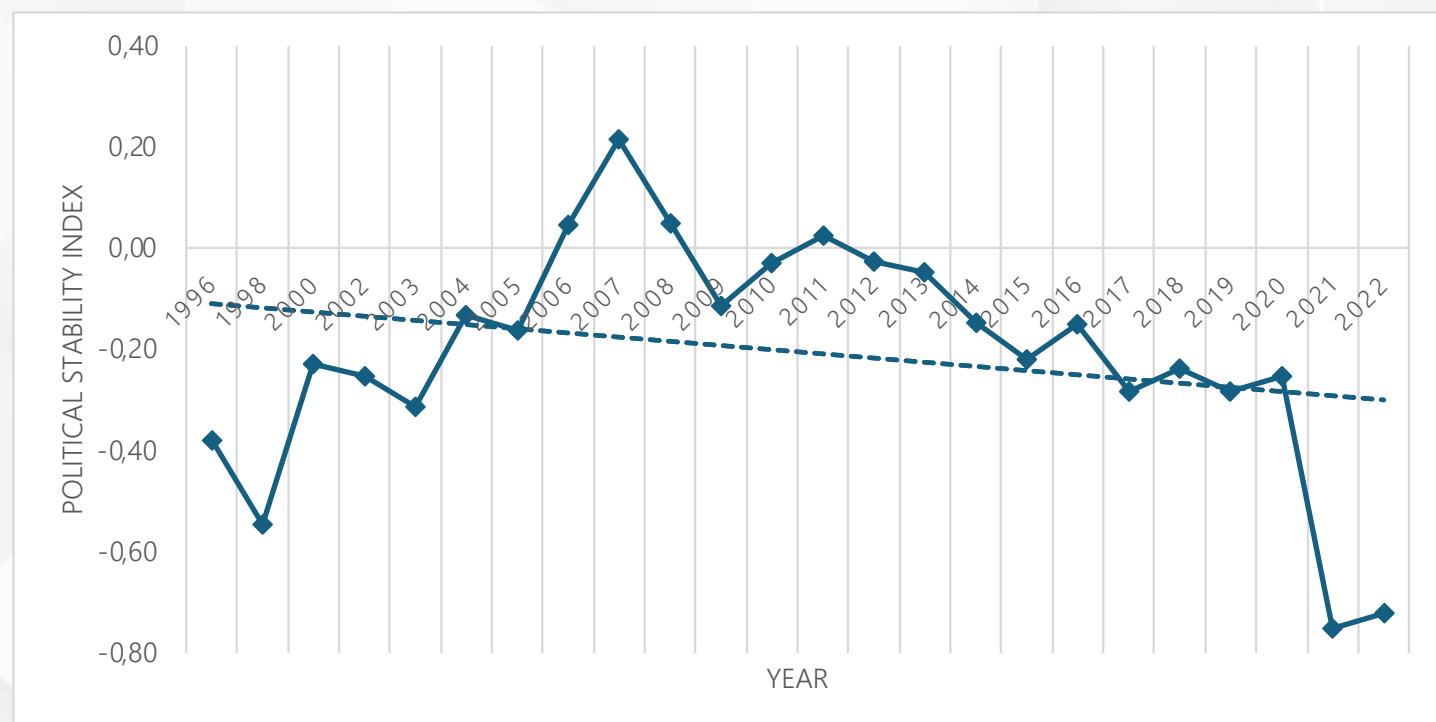


Source: Derived from Kaufmann and Kraay (2023); Authors calculations.

Political Stability Index

Figure 7 indicates that South Africa and Mpumalanga have performed poorly under political stability with a deteriorating trend over time in the past 30 years of democracy. Political stability was the lowest in 2021 (-0.75) which was at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and a global economic downturn. The data shows a curious trend given that South Africa and the Mpumalanga Province have been governed by one political party over the 30 years of democracy thus it is counterintuitive that there would be political instability. Perhaps, this is an indication of internal divisions within the ruling party and growing dissatisfaction among the citizens as manifested in service delivery related and other protests.

Figure 7: Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism Index

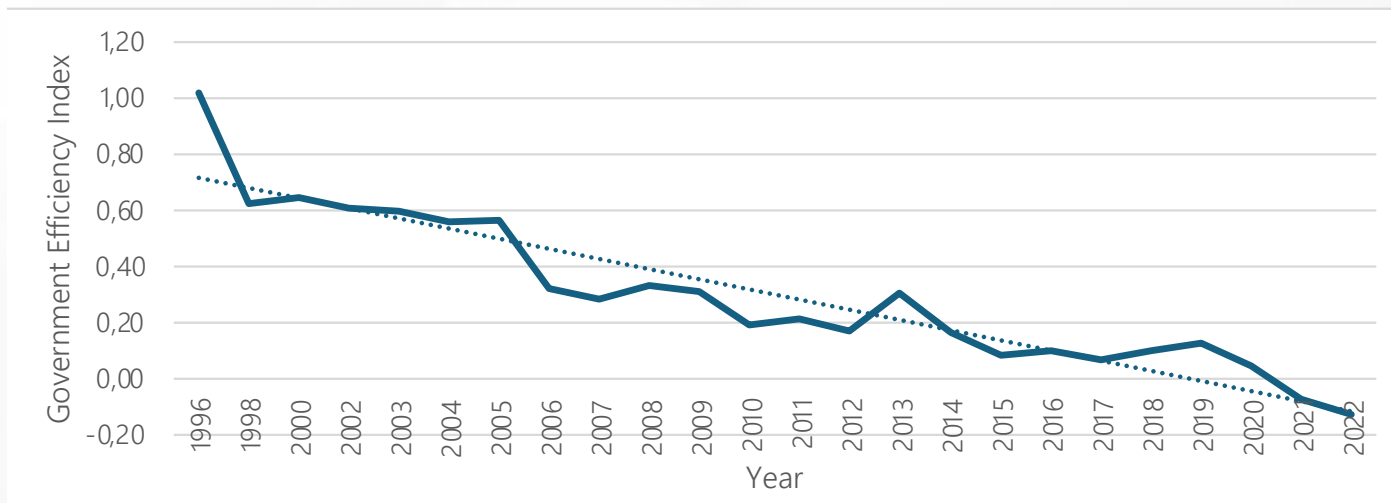


Source: Derived from Kaufmann and Kraay (2023); Authors calculations.

Government Efficiency Index

There is a perception that the Government is inefficient and wasteful in terms of exploiting the available resources to improve the lives of the people as supported by the picture depicted in Figure 8. Government efficiency has been declining sharply since 1996 and was at its lowest in 2022, dropping from a high of 1.02 to a dismal low of -0.13, respectively. This is an area that the Province needs to pay particular attention to remedying going forward.

Figure 8: Government Efficiency Index, 1996-2022.

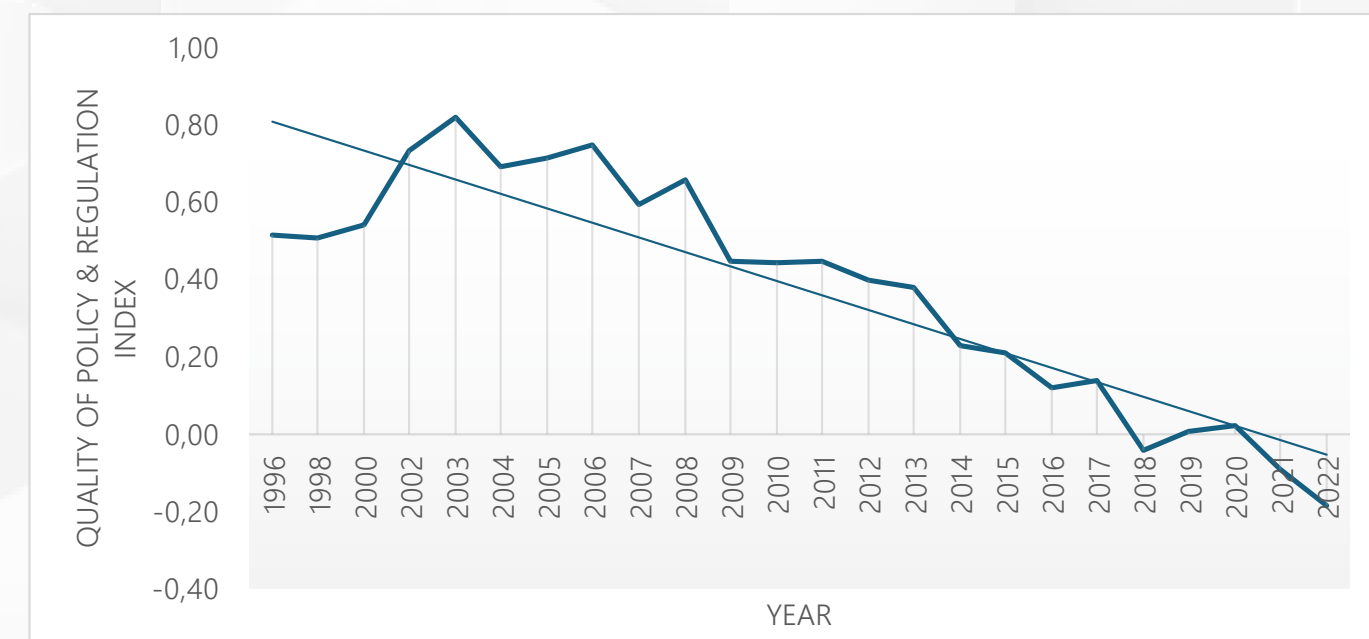


Source: Derived from Kaufmann and Kraay (2023); Authors calculations.

Quality of Policy and Regulation Index

Figure 9 shows the Province's performance under the Quality of Policy and Regulation Index. Performance under this index exhibits a similar trend to Governance Efficiency as there is a strong correlation between the two indices. The quality of policies and regulations affects the efficiency of the Government as policies and regulations are the guiding principles of how the Government functions and executes its mandate.

Figure 9: Quality of Policy and Regulation Index, 1996-2022

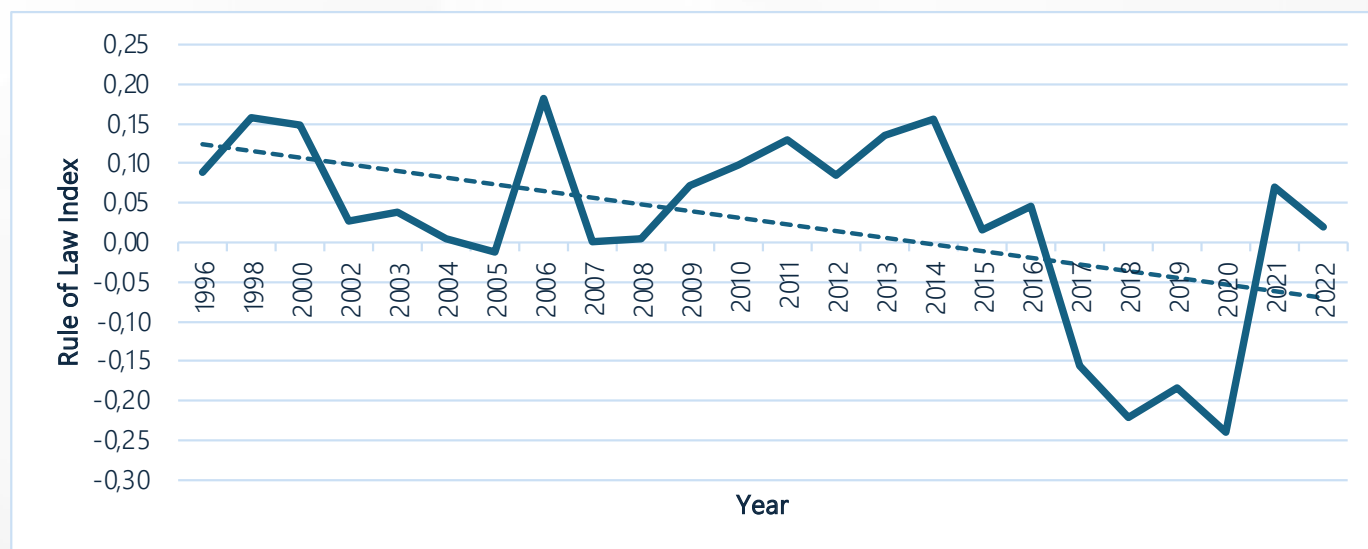


Source: Derived from Kaufmann and Kraay (2023); Authors calculations.

Rule of Law Index

The rule of law is an important stabilizing principle for any democracy, as democracy thrives when there is equality before the law and justice is seen to be done fairly and consistently. South Africa and the Mpumalanga Province, by extension, performed erratically under the Rule of Law Index, exhibiting the lowest rating in the negative territory between 2017 and 2020, as depicted by the graph below. This period coincides with state of capture revelations during the working of the State of Capture Commission of Inquiry.

Figure 10: Rule of Law Index, 1996-2022.



Source: Derived from Kaufmann and Kraay (2023); Authors calculations.

Control of Corruption Index

The importance of reducing corruption is also recognised explicitly by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG target 16.5). According to the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS, 2016), bribery is defined as: “Promising, offering, giving, soliciting, or accepting an undue advantage to or from a public official or a person who directs or works in a private sector entity, directly or indirectly, so that the person act or refrain from acting in the exercise of his or her official duties”.

Table 7: Number and percentage of individuals who were asked to give money to a Government official in exchange for a service/favour, 2019/20 and 2022/23

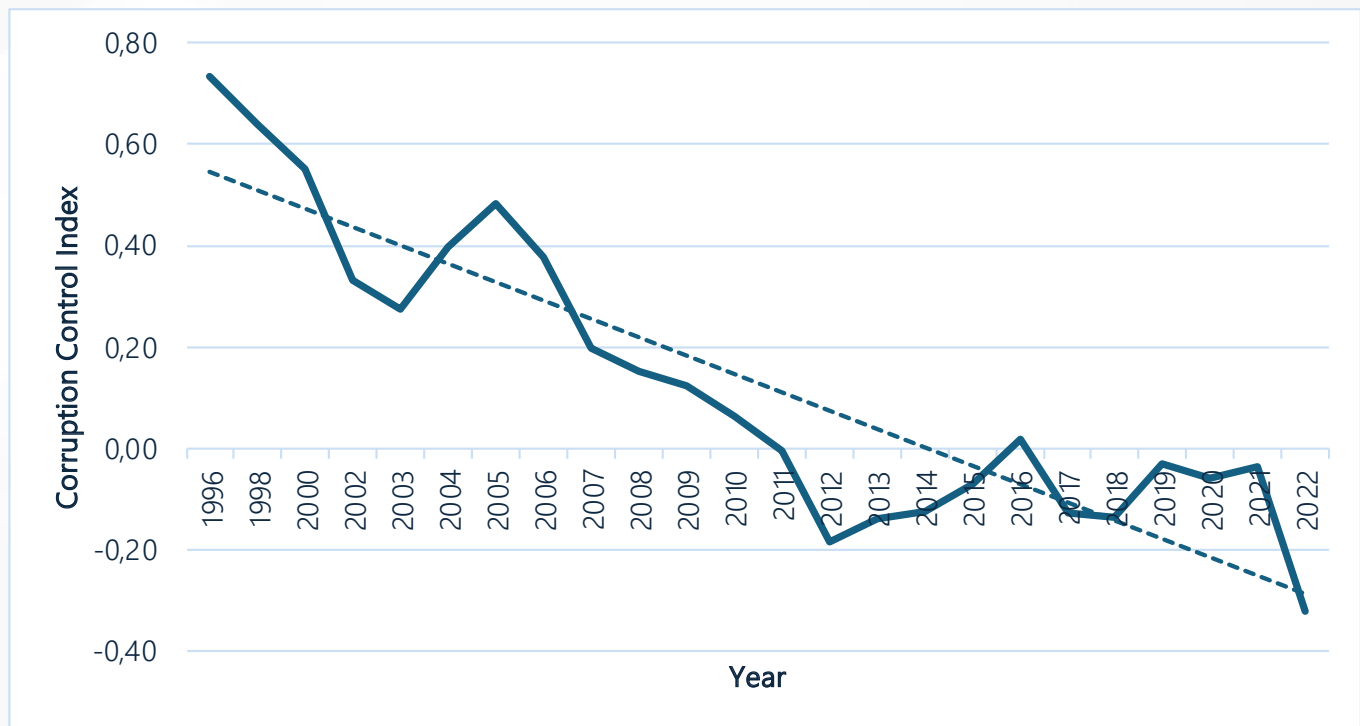
Government official	2019/20		2022/23	
	Number ('000)	Percentage (%)	Number ('000)	Percentage (%)
Traffic officials (e.g., Metro Police, Traffic police)	845	2.1	859	2.0
Police officials (SAPS)	560	1.4	481	1.1
Traffic Centre officials (driving license, vehicle testing)	395	1,0	444	1,0
Local municipality officials	150	0.4	164	0,4
Home Affairs officials	*	*	102	0,2
Social Services Officials (SASSA)	*	*	62	0,1
Health services officials	*	*	61	0,1
Court officials	*	*	54	0,1
Housing officials	*	*	42	0,1
Education officials	*	*	28	0,1
Tax or revenue officials (SARS)	*	*	*	*
Correctional services officials	*	*	*	*

Source: Governance, Public Safety, and Justice Survey GPSJS 2022/23

Table 7 shows the number and percentage of individuals who were asked to give money or gifts in exchange for the services they needed from a Government official in 2019/20 and 2022/23 in South Africa. The traffic officials followed by police officials and traffic centre officials had the highest proportion of officials who have asked for a bribe from individuals in both 2019/20 and 2022/23. Although the proportions have roughly stayed the same between the two periods, the absolute numbers show an increase in the number of individuals who have been asked for a bribe by Government officials except for the police officials.

Paradoxically, the evidence from the Corruption Control Index shows that the perception is that corruption control has been deteriorating in South Africa and Mpumalanga over the 30 years of democracy from 1996 to 2023 as presented in Figure 11.

Figure 11: Corruption Control Index, 1996-2022.



Source: Derived from Kaufmann and Kraay (2023); Authors calculations.

Since 2011 to date, South Africa has recorded negative scores in the Corruption Control Index, and this is a concerning trend. The Corruption Control Index has a sting in its tale. Given that these are largely perception indices, the more a Province or country reports on corruption the higher the likelihood that people will perceive that there are higher levels of corruption. The Mpumalanga Province has been relatively transparent in publicly reporting cases of corruption, especially during the earlier periods of democratic rule. By and large, and as can be observed from Figure 11, the perception is that corruption levels are unacceptably high in the country and perceptions count.

LESSONS LEARNED, CONCLUSIONS

It's clear that governance indicators like the rule of law, control of corruption, voice and accountability, political stability, and Government efficiency play a critical role in assessing a country's overall governance performance. South Africa's performance over the past 30 years has shown various trends and patterns that can provide important insights for policymakers and stakeholders. The decline in certain indicators, such as political stability and Government efficiency, raises concerns about internal divisions and inefficiencies within the ruling party and the overall impact on citizen satisfaction. Monitoring and addressing these issues will be crucial for improving governance and ensuring better service delivery to the people.

The Control of Corruption Index and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognize the need to reduce corruption, with bribery defined as offering an undue advantage to a public official. The data reveals an increase in the number of individuals asked for bribes, particularly by traffic officials and police. However, police officials saw a decrease in the numbers.

The Corruption Control Index indicates a perceived deterioration in corruption control in South Africa and Mpumalanga from 1996 to 2023, with South Africa recording negative scores since 2011. Paradoxically, reporting on corruption may lead to increased perceived corruption levels. Additionally, there is a shift in the trend of individuals giving bribes for services from 2019/20 to 2022/23, with traffic officials, traffic centre officials, and police officials being the highest recipients of bribes. Notably, the number of individuals paying bribes to traffic officials decreased from 2019/20 to 2022/23.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Corruption remains a challenge, as perceptions of high corruption levels persist. Efforts to curb corruption are crucial in achieving sustainable development goals and fostering public trust in Government institutions. Based on the performance of South Africa in terms of governance, it is evident that there are areas that require attention and improvement. Here are some recommendations based on the data:

1. **Enhance Political Stability:** Given the fluctuating Political Stability Index, efforts should be made to address factors leading to political instability and reduce politically motivated violence and terrorism.
2. **Strengthen the Rule of Law and Control of Corruption:** The indicators for the Rule of Law and Control of Corruption show areas of concern. It is crucial to improve trust in and adherence to societal regulations, as well as to intensify efforts to curb corruption at all levels.
3. **Focus on Government Efficiency:** The Government Efficiency Index has shown some fluctuations. It is important to enhance the quality of public services, ensure the independence of the civil service from political pressures, and improve policy formulation and implementation.
4. **Provincial Analysis:** Extending the analysis to municipal levels, especially for Provinces like Mpumalanga, can provide insights into how governance performance varies within the country. This can help in tailoring specific interventions based on Provincial nuances.

By addressing these recommendations, Mpumalanga can work towards improving governance across the Province, ultimately foster sustainable development, and offer lessons to the rest of the country as a benchmark in addressing and improving governance.

CHAPTER [3]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP



This chapter deals with the contribution of local Government and traditional leadership to service delivery and governance in the Mpumalanga Province. However, it is important to preface the contribution of local Government and traditional leadership to governance in the Province with the national and Provincial aspirations as expressed in the various relevant policies and programmes.

The pre-1994 local Government was characterised by injustice among other social ills. The democratic South Africa inherited a system of local Government that perpetuated prejudices along racial lines in service delivery. This separate system of local Government accelerated inequalities in access to basic services such as water, sanitation, electricity, health care services and housing (Fuo 2014). There was a notably skewed allocation of resources that favoured white local authorities in many ways. For instance, poor and outlying areas were reserved for black people without meaningful economies; forcing black people to travel long distances and contribute to the white local authorities' revenue base. This according to De Visser was a deliberate lack of redistribution that produced a clever scheme of exploitation (De Visser 2005). Therefore, service delivery gaps at the time were evident as most of the black population had no access to essential services such as clean water, electricity and housing. These service delivery gaps are still visible today and could take a long time to correct (Tsatsire et al. 2009).

Post-apartheid South Africa embarked on a democratisation project that included significant local Government reforms. The developmental local Government introduced a new concept of elected local leadership and an emphasis on improving the quality of life of previously disadvantaged communities, including areas under traditional leaders. It should be noted that the elected local Government and the traditional leadership systems are not homogenous hence there is often tension between the systems of local Government. The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs is mandated with overseeing local governance and engendering cooperation between the democratically elected local Government, consisting of councillors, and the traditional leadership consisting of kings, chiefs and lower-level leadership.

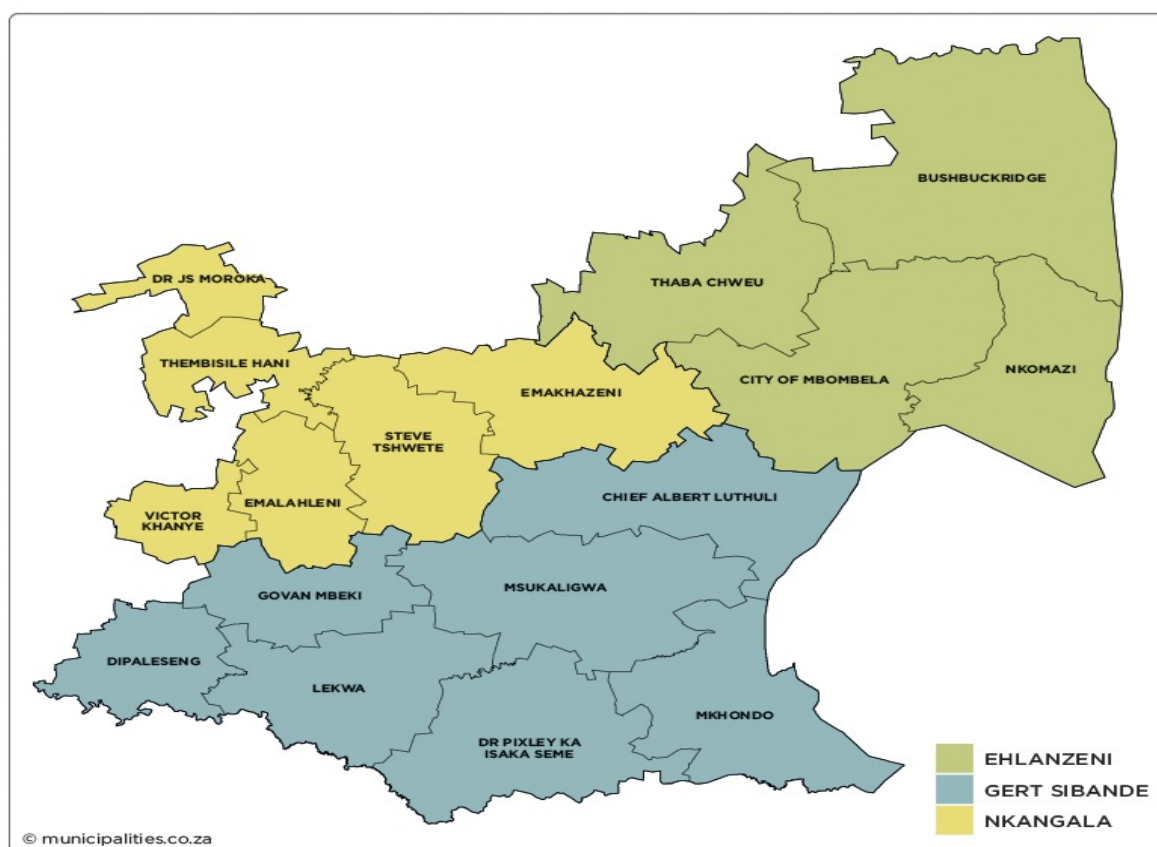
Mpumalanga Province currently, has 17 Category B or local municipalities which share executive and legislative authority with the district municipalities with which they overlap, and 3 Category C or District municipalities have executive and legislative authority in areas with more than one local municipality.

⁴ Fuo, O. 2014. Local Government's Role in the Pursuit of the Transformative Constitutional Mandate of Social Justice in South Africa. PhD-dissertation North-West University.

⁵ De Visser, J.W. 2005. Developmental Local Government: A Case Study of South Africa. Intersentia Oxford.

⁶ Tsatsire, I. et al. 2009. Historical Overview of Specific Local Government Transformatory Developments in South Africa. *New Contree: A Journal of Historical and Human Sciences for Southern Africa*, 129–147.

Figure 12: The map of Mpumalanga and its 3 district and 17 local municipalities in 2024.



Source: *municipalities.co.za*

NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ASPIRATIONS

As a prelude to analysing the governance situation in Mpumalanga Province after 30 years of democracy, we need to review the significant policy mandates of democratic South Africa. Governance refers to how society's rules are followed, and it is a matter of concern for policymakers and scholars worldwide. The 1981 Berg Report commissioned by the World Bank heightened concerns about governance in an African context, stating that poor governance was a significant contributor to Africa's poor economic health. Since its transformation from the OAU in 2002, good governance has been a top priority of the AU, of which South Africa is a founding member and one of its architects. According to the AU Constitutive Act, one of the AU's objectives is to promote democratic principles and institutions, popular participation, and good governance. Good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice, and the rule of law are among the seven aspirations of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, the AU's master plan for transforming Africa into a global powerhouse. Governance is a notoriously difficult concept to define and quantify, but several tools have been developed to provide comparable scores, in the form of an index, for over 200 countries across six dimensions of governance. The WGI, a World Bank initiative launched in 1996, is one such tool. The WGI index draws from various sources, including the Afro barometer and the Mo Ibrahim Foundation's Ibrahim IAG. The AfDB identifies five key elements of good governance: accountability, transparency, measures to combat corruption, stakeholder participation, and a legal and judicial framework. The AfDB argues that good governance is essential for creating and sustaining an enabling environment for development. This policy brief assesses the state of governance in Africa, drawing on various governance indicators and reports. It also reflects on the AU instruments and processes, such as the APRM and the AGR, put in place to promote and monitor good governance. These resonate with section 152(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, which sets the following five objectives of local Government:

- To provide a 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 organisations in local Government matters.

Chapter 6 of the NDP 2030: An Integrated and Inclusive Rural Economy, states that by 2030 South African rural communities must have better opportunities to fully participate in the economic, social, and political life of the country. South Africans will only achieve this through access to high-quality basic services which will enable them to seek economic opportunities. The South African Government, through the COGTA, acknowledges the challenges at municipalities and thus has prioritised the implementation of the Back-to-Basics programme to ensure that all municipalities move from a dysfunctional to a functional state.

The national socioeconomic development strategy, as articulated in the National Development Plan, includes an important social wage component, as a key tool to raise living standards and reduce poverty and inequality. A social wage comprises both monetary and non-monetary transfers and subsidies for poor households, effectively increasing their disposable income and/or reducing their expenditure requirements. The most visible and significant component of the social wage in South Africa, in terms of the current budgetary implications, is social grants.

BASIC SERVICES ARE ACCEPTED TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Housing
- Education
- Health care
- Social welfare
- Transport
- Electricity and energy
- Water
- Sanitation and refuse removal

However, for this chapter, the focus will be on the last three, which are a core part of the governance section and mandate of local Government, and bringing them closer to the Mpumalanga Provincial context and analysis.

LEGISLATIVE, KEY POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

South Africa's policymaking process between 1994 and 2024, is largely anchored and embedded on the 1996 Constitution that introduced three distinct, interconnected, and interdependent spheres of national, Provincial and local Governments. All three spheres were impacted upon by and expected to align with the four major policies that define the country's development agenda: the RDP (1994), the GEAR (1996) strategy, the ASGISA (2006), and the NDP 2030 2030 (2012).

To enable and support the functioning of local Government, policies and legislation were developed and enacted. These include:

THE WHITE PAPER ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT (1998)

The White Paper on Local Government was published in March 1998 (hereinafter referred to as the "White Paper") sets out the vision of how local Government should work. The White Paper states that local Government must play a "developmental role" – in which case local Government must "work with citizens and groups within the community to find sustainable ways to meet their social,

economic and material needs and improve the quality of their lives”. It also introduced developmental local Governments, emphasising the centrality of community participation. The general orientation of local Government was therefore expected to target groups within communities that are most often marginalised or excluded, such as women, disabled people, the elderly and impoverished people.

The White Paper on Local Government, 1998, spelt out the framework in which the existing local Government system had been transformed. It established the basis for a system of local Government. This system is concerned with working with local citizens and communities to find sustainable ways to meet their needs and improve the quality of their lives. It also introduced the notion of developmental local Government, emphasising the centrality of community participation in local governance. The White Paper outlines four characteristics of developmental local Government, which are, exercising municipal powers and functions in a manner which maximises their impact on social development and economic growth, playing a coordinating role in ensuring alignment between public (including all spheres of Government) and private investment within the municipal area, democratising development, building social capital through providing community leadership and vision and seeking to empower marginalised and excluded groups within the community.

MUNICIPAL STRUCTURES ACT, NO. 117 OF 1998

The Act dictates the establishment of municipalities according to specific categories, establishes relevant criteria, and describes how powers and functions should be shared. Section 84 of the Municipal Structures Act deals with dividing functions and powers between district and local municipalities. The latest amendments to this Act were introduced on 1 November 2021 through Act No. 3 of 2021.

MUNICIPAL SYSTEMS ACT, NO. 32 OF 2000

The Act provides municipalities with core principles and processes, including how municipal powers and functions should be exercised. It also provides for community participation and details the core processes of planning, performance management, resource mobilisation, and organisational change. A Municipality is required in terms of this Act to undertake developmental oriented planning to ensure that it achieves the objectives of local Government set out in section 152 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996. The latest amendments to this Act were introduced on 1 November 2022 through Act No. 3 of 2022.

The Act stipulates that local Governments must promote a safe and healthy environment in the municipality. Together with MTEF, the Act requires municipalities to develop five-year integrated development plans (IDPs), which provide a framework for all development activities in the municipality. The MSA stipulates that local Government must consult with communities and use municipal resources in the best interests of the local community. Communities should be involved in the IDPs, budgeting and specific strategies for service delivery, e.g. the development of safety plans. Communities should also participate in the establishment, implementation and review of the municipal performance management system and the monitoring and review of municipal performance, including outcomes and impact. Involvement in local Government processes is difficult for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. The MSA specifies that community participation must be encouraged through capacity building of the community, local councillors and staff. Municipalities must allocate funding for these activities.

MUNICIPAL FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT, NO. 56 OF 2003 (MFMA)

The MFMA provides for sound financial management practices and budget processes for the sustainable delivery of services. The MFMA stipulates in section 21(2) that a municipality’s budget must “take into account the municipality’s IDP.” This requirement for the IDP and budget to be closely aligned is reinforced as required in Schedule A of the 2009 Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations, promulgated in terms of the MFMA – a mandatory budget component is an “overview of alignment of the annual budget with IDP.”

SPATIAL PLANNING LAND USE MANAGEMENT ACT, NO. 16 OF 2013 (SPLUMA)

SPLUMA provides a framework for spatial planning and land use management in South Africa. section 20 of SPLUMA directs every municipality to “adopt a municipal spatial development framework which must be prepared as part of a municipality’s IDP following the provisions of the Municipal Systems Act.” The SPLUMA principles provide the goals for shaping land use and call on all three spheres of Government to redress spatial imbalances and improve access to land. It introduces the principles outlined in the National Development Plan of spatial justice, spatial sustainability, spatial resilience, and efficient and sound administration to guide land use governance.

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS FRAMEWORK ACT, NO. 13 OF 2005 (IGRFA)

This Act formalises cooperation in the three-sphere system of Government and implements section 41 of the Constitution. Section 4 of the IGRFA states that the objective of the Act is to provide, within the principle of cooperative governance, set out in Chapter 3 of the Constitution, a framework for the national Government, Provincial Governments, local Governments, and all organs of state within those Governments to work together. This is to facilitate the implementation of policy and legislation, including coherent Government, the adequate provision of services, monitoring the implementation of policy and legislation, and realising national priorities.

MUNICIPAL ELECTORAL ACT, NO. 27 OF 2000

The Act regulates municipal elections. The Electoral Code of Conduct promotes “conditions conducive to free and fair elections,” creating a climate of tolerance, free political campaigning, and open public debate. As soon as the election date is proclaimed, parties, their agents and candidates commit to adhering to the Electoral Code of Conduct provisions until the election results are officially announced. Failure to do so creates the risk of a party’s candidates or independent candidates being disqualified

KEY MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES

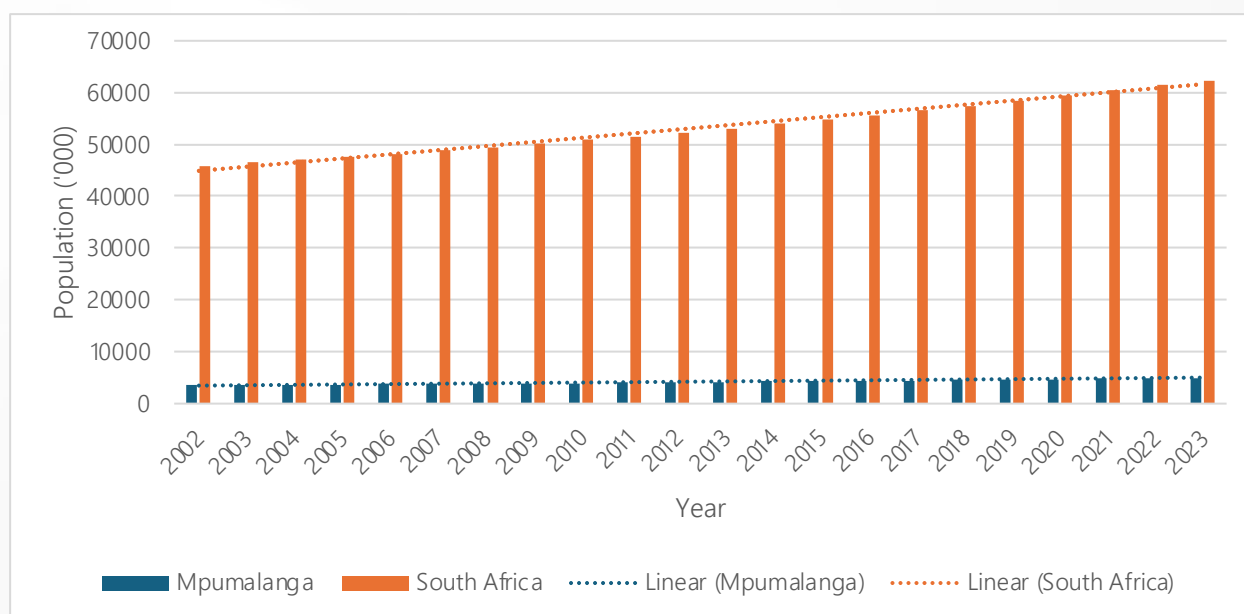
Subsidised, including free, household services-energy, water, sanitation, and waste removal - are also intended as an important part of the social wage. The rationale is that (1) access to such services is key to raising living standards and (2) subsidies, including free services, are necessary to compensate for the lack of household income which would otherwise mean that poor households are unable to access these services. In addition, access to quality services facilitates increased opportunities to generate livelihoods and thereby contributes to national employment and income goals.

Universal access to quality services is thus a critical part of South Africa’s long-term goal of reducing poverty and inequality. Effective access comprises both physical access (infrastructure and service delivery that ensures a reliable and quality service) and affordability (unaffordable services cannot be accessed). The 1998 White Paper on Local Government emphasised the importance of ensuring that basic services are affordable to achieve the goal of universal access. When services are unaffordable for poor households, the value of the social wage is eroded, as is its role as a redistributive mechanism. The White Paper was clear that each municipality has a responsibility to ensure that tariffs are set at affordable levels.

It is important to contextualize any governance analysis of the Mpumalanga Province, and this study adopts the approach of analysing the performance of the Province within the context of South Africa as a nation thus Mpumalanga’s performance is juxtaposed against the national performance.

Figure 13 shows the South African population growth trend for each of the nine Provinces between 2002 and 2023. These are the most recent and reliable population figures for the country as they are official statistics from Statistics South Africa.

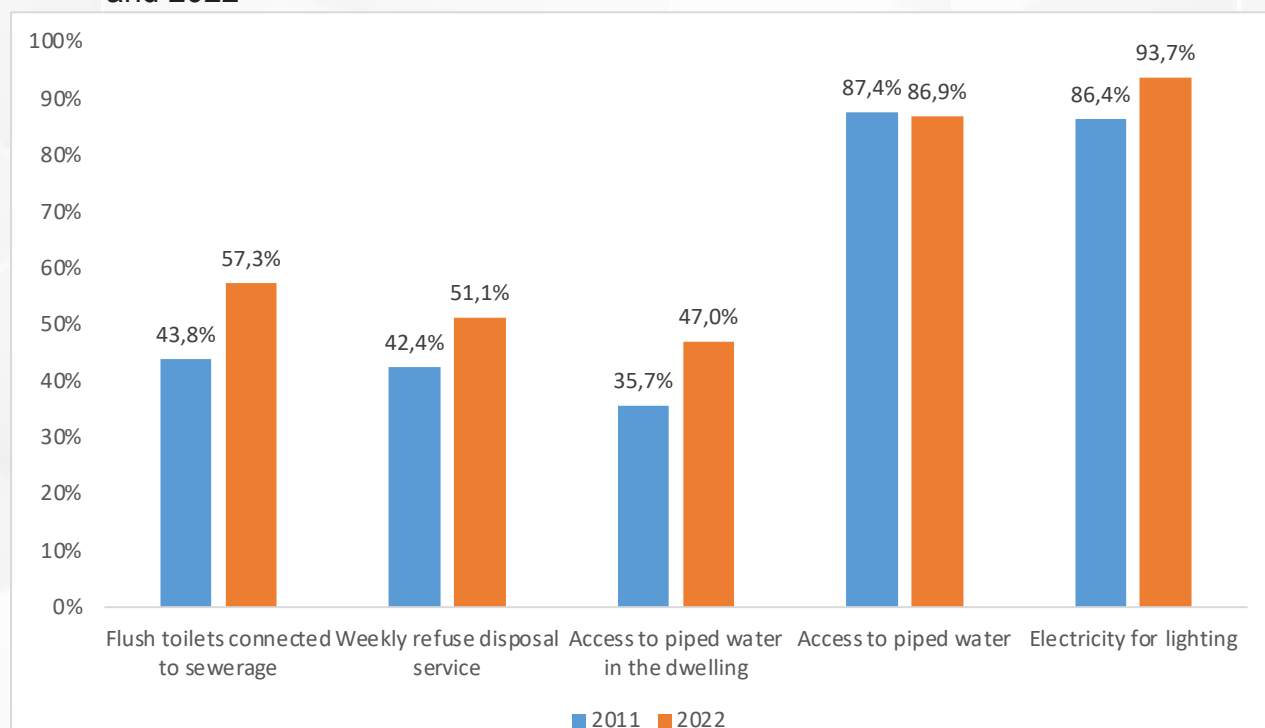
Figure 13: Mpumalanga population growth, 2002 to 2023.



Source: Authors' calculations based on GHS (2023) statistics.

The analysis of access to basic service delivery illustrated in Figure 14 shows a significant improvement in the number of households with access to water, sanitation, electricity and waste removal in Mpumalanga between 2011 and 2022. It should be noted that the data used to analyse the state of service delivery in the Province as proxy of the number of households with access to basic services are official figures from Stats SA Census 2022.

Figure 14: Percentage of households accessing basic services in Mpumalanga between 2011 and 2022



Source: Census 2011 & 2022

⁷ South Africa (1997) "White paper on Transforming Public Service Delivery (Commitment Gazette No. 18340)", 1997. Pretoria. Government Printers.

From Figure 14 it can be observed that there was an increase in households with access to water from 939 959 (87.4%) in 2011 to 1,235,476 (86.9%) in 2022. A similar picture can be seen for sanitation over the same period with the number of households with access to sanitation services rising to 1 363 430 (95.9%) in 2022. Access to electricity increased from 967 138 (86.4%) in 2011 to 1,332 152 (93.7%) in 2022. For refuse removal, the number increased from (42.4%) in 2011 to 726 499 (51.1%) in 2022. These improvements could be attributed to collaborative efforts between the three spheres of Government, to make a difference in the lives of the people in Mpumalanga.

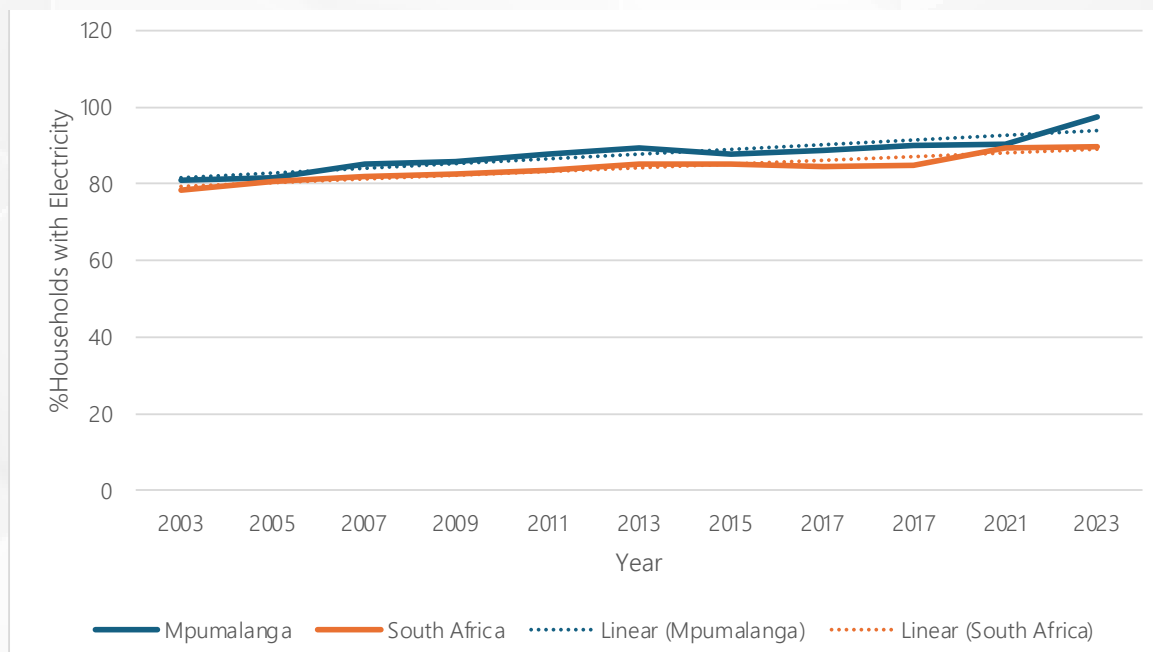
ELECTRICITY

The RDP 1994 identified energy as a “basic need”. It went further to state that “although Eskom has excess generating capacity, only 36% of South African households have access to electricity, leaving some three million households with no access. Furthermore, some 19,000 black schools (86% of schools) and around 4,000 clinics are currently without electricity. Little attention has been paid to utilizing sustainable energy sources...” (section 2.7.1). The first democratic Government, therefore, adopted a country with huge electricity access backlogs. Consequently, the Government introduced an energy and electrification policy aimed at:

- Addressing the inequalities and backlog in access to energy of the majority.
- Promoting economic development through energy provision; and
- Managing the environmental and health impact of energy provision and use.

To reach these aims, the energy sector had to be fundamentally restructured. South Africa’s energy sector has historically been based on the availability of vast amounts of relatively cheap coal in the country and is closely linked to the mining sector, which needs vast amounts of cheap energy. The same is true for the Mpumalanga Province despite being the leading coal mining Province in the country. Figure 15 shows the percentage of households with access to electricity via the national electricity grid in Mpumalanga and South Africa over the last 30 years of democratic rule.

Figure 15: Percentage of Households with Electricity in Mpumalanga and South Africa, 2002 – 2023.



Source: Authors’ calculations based on GHS (2023) statistics.

Figure 15 shows that Mpumalanga has been connecting households at a rate higher than the national average, which is commendable and shows commitment to the provision of basic services to the residents of the Province.

WATER

Before 1994, there was no single national Government Department responsible for water supply and services. The responsibility was divided among local Governments in the previous four Provinces and to ten nominally autonomous homelands, resulting in very different levels of service. Most of the then-white local Governments offered standards equal to those in industrialised countries. In the rural areas, there were often no services, while in black urban areas, the situation was mixed. Both urban and rural services for black people were often than not in a state of disrepair. The new democratic dispensation inherited a highly unequal society in 1994 with huge backlogs in the areas reserved for the black majority.

In 1994 approximately 15.2 million South Africans, (12 million who lived in rural areas) did not have adequate access to safe water. The short-term aim of RDP is to commit the Government to providing every citizen with adequate water. A national water (and sanitation) Programme which aimed to provide all households with a clean, safe water supply of 20-30 litres per capita per day was put in place. The DWAF was given the responsibility to ensure that all South Africans had equitable access to water supply and sanitation. The White Paper on Community Water Supply and Sanitation adopted in November 1994 provided the framework thereof. The basic water supply was defined as 25 litres per person per day, within 200 metres of the home.

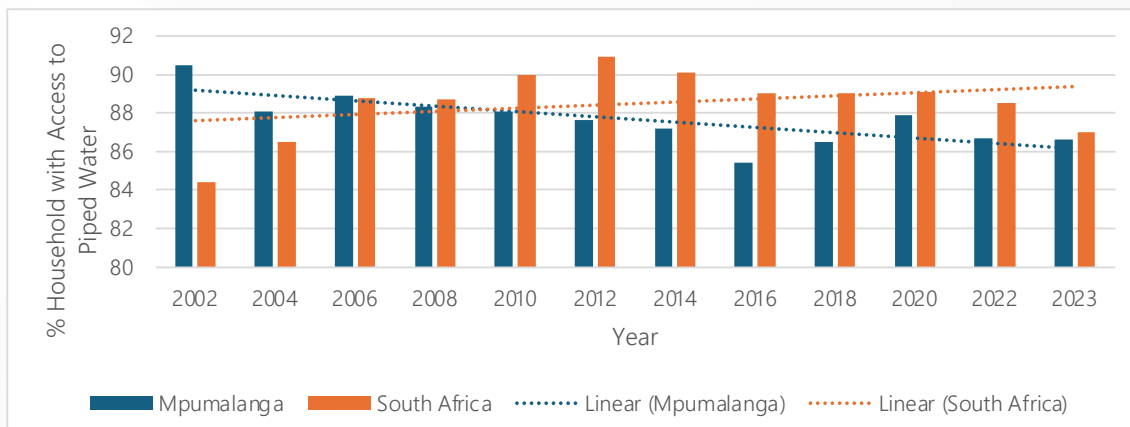
In 1996, as the capital works Programme expanded rapidly, DWAF recognised that progress was constrained by a shortage of delivery capacity. It started four partnerships with private-sector consortia to undertake Build, Operate, Train and Transfer (BoTT) contracts in the four Provinces (Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, and Limpopo) where the backlog of services was greatest. The aim was to speed up delivery by minimising bureaucracy, and by using the resources of the private sector to achieve the vision. These partnerships had mixed results.

During the first decade of freedom, new water services were constructed, giving access to clean water to 9 million people. In the absence of a local Government planning framework in 1994, prioritization was done through the setting up of Water Project Committees, later led by elected local Government representatives. Some funds for stand-alone projects in small (less than 5,000 people) communities were channelled through the Mvula Trust, which had developed community management delivery models.

Figure 16 shows the progress attained in providing access to water since 1996. In this regard, a comparison is made between 2002 and 2023 and between Mpumalanga and the national level (South Africa). In 2002 90.5% of households in Mpumalanga had piped water inside their dwelling compared with 84.4% nationally signalling that the Province outperformed the national average. However, from 2003, the Province began to slip and consistently had less than 90% of households with piped water in their dwelling and was below the national average of 87% in 2023.

⁸ South Africa (1994) *“White Paper on Community Water Supply and Sanitation”*, 1994. Pretoria. Government Printers.

Figure 16: Percentage households with piped water inside their dwelling in Mpumalanga compared to the national average, 2002 – 2023.



Source: Stats SA, Census 2022

During this period, as depicted in table 8, the share of those with no formal piped water decreased from 7% to 1%. Those with piped water in the yard increased from 36% in 1996 to 46% in 2018. Generally, access to piped, clean and safe water has increased considerably during the period under review. The main reason for this improvement in service delivery is the funding received from the MIG and WSIG. This, in turn, is an indication of improved municipal capacity since adequate internal technical capacity within a municipality is a prerequisite to accessing both the MIG and WSIG.

Table 8: Percentage households with piped water inside their dwelling in Mpumalanga compared to the national average, 2002 – 2023.

Year												
%HH	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2023
MP	90.5	88.1	88.9	88.3	88.1	87.6	87.2	85.4	86.5	87.9	86.7	86.6
SA	84.4	86.5	88.8	88.7	90	90.9	90.1	89	89	89.1	88.5	87

Source: Stats SA, Census 2022

SANITATION

The Government has a constitutional responsibility to ensure that all South Africans have access to adequate sanitation. Key target areas will include rural, peri-urban, and informal settlements where the need is greatest.

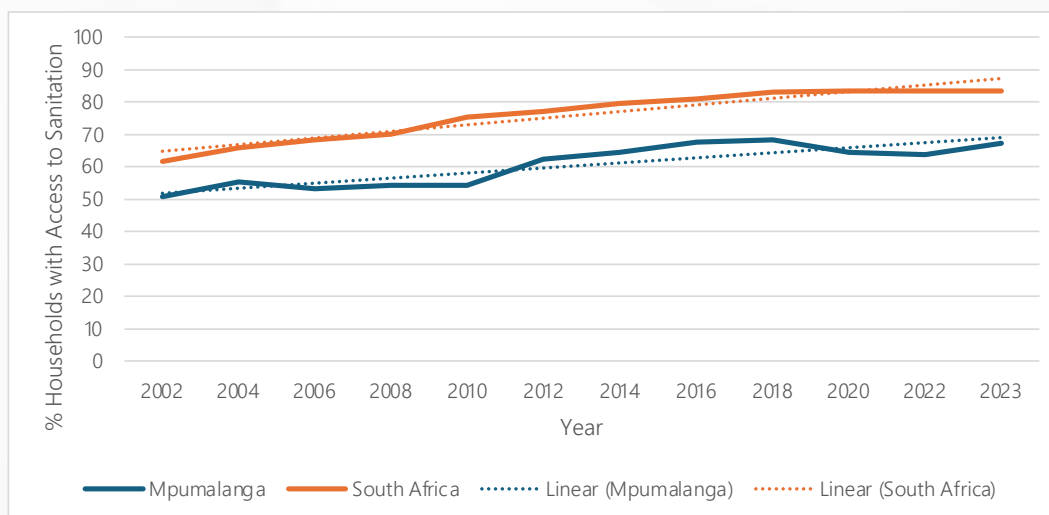
The Government committed to getting rid of all bucket toilets by the end of 2007. The policy focuses on:

- Providing adequate sanitation for households, schools, and clinics.
- Improving household waste collection and disposal, and
- Educating the public about hygiene.

The improvement of sanitation is everybody's business. Role-players include communities and households (first and foremost); community-based contractors; local, Provincial, and national Government; the private sector and NGOs. The constitutional responsibilities for ensuring access to sanitation rest with the Government. Local Government must provide access to basic sanitation, whilst national and Provincial Governments must support municipalities with legislation and other measures.

In 1994 an estimated 21 million people did not have access to a basic level of sanitation in South Africa. In 2002, approximately 1.71 million (49.3% of the Provincial population) did not have access to proper sanitation in the Mpumalanga Province as indicated in Figure 17 and Table 9. There are still over 1.6 million people (32.8% of the Mpumalanga households) who do not have access to basic sanitation. Throughout the period under review, the Mpumalanga Province has been performing below the national average when it comes to providing access to basic sanitation for its residents.

Figure 17: Percentage of households with access to sanitation in Mpumalanga, 2002-2023



Source: Stats SA, Census 2022

Sanitation is one area where the Province has failed to deliver acceptable levels of services, although there have been improvements over the years from only 50.7% of households with access to sanitation in 2002 to 67.2% in 2023. It should be noted that the country, as a whole, has been battling with providing households with access to basic sanitation as shown in Figure 17 and Table 9. There was a notable slowing down in the provision of access to households with access to sanitation in Mpumalanga between 2020 and 2022 compared to previous years. This dip coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic which could be explained by the fact that the Provincial administration had to reprioritise its resource allocation to deal with the pandemic. A conjecture here would be that resources that may have been budgeted for sanitation had to be expropriated and reallocated in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 9: Percentage of households with access to sanitation in Mpumalanga, 2002-2023

Year	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2023
MP	50.7	55.3	53.1	54.4	54.4	62.4	64.4	67.5	68.1	64.4	63.8	67.2
SA	61.7	65.7	68.3	70	75.4	77	79.5	81	83	83.2	83.2	83.3

Source: Stats SA, Census 2022

Sanitation means collecting and getting rid - in a hygienic manner - of waste, including human excreta, household wastewater and rubbish. If this is not done, neighbourhoods become dirty, and people get sick. Sanitation is vital for good health. In South Africa, there are already 1, 5 million cases of diarrhoea (runny stomach) each year in children under 5 years of age, as well as outbreaks of cholera. Other health problems associated with poor sanitation include dysentery, typhoid, malaria, bilharzia, worm infestations, eye infections, skin diseases and increased infections in HIV-positive people. Good sanitation leads to increased life expectancy and better quality of life.

BASIC SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE

The Government of South Africa had set itself a target of achieving universal access to (at least) a basic level of water, sanitation, electricity, and refuse removal services by 2014. Though this target could not be fully achieved by 2014, significant progress has been recorded. The Province must still be commended for the great strides achieved in the face of the unique challenges inherited in 1994 and against the rapid growth in demand. The figures on backlogs shown above indicate a challenge remaining to provide all residents of Mpumalanga with at least a basic level of service.

Funding infrastructure in the country is a major challenge. Municipalities are primarily responsible for establishing the infrastructure needed for delivering services and addressing the principal welfare issues of citizens whose behaviour and decisions have important consequences. Municipal infrastructure is the physical facilities, comprising immovable assets which are required to provide a municipal service. The South African Government has committed its municipalities to remedying service backlogs by 2014. It was estimated that in 2011 the cost of building, upgrading, rehabilitating, and expanding the required water, transport, power, and township infrastructure exceeded R473 billion. Capital constraints have contributed to the Government not achieving its target of getting services to all by 2014. These capital constraints exist in the context of severe institutional capacity constraints, particularly in the capacity of technical staff.

The Mpumalanga Province has also continued to improve the state of its municipalities through interventions implemented by COGTA. According to the 2021 State of Local Government Report there were 64 dysfunctional municipalities identified in South Africa and six of these were in the Mpumalanga Province namely,

- Thaba Chweu
- Lekwa
- Msukaligwa
- Dipaleseng
- Goven Mbeki
- Dr JS Moroka

The Report classifies municipalities into four (4) categories: Dysfunctional (red), Medium Risk (orange), Low Risk (yellow), and Stable (green). Only one municipality in Mpumalanga was classified as stable and that was EDM as shown in Table 10. However, there already encouraging signs that the state of municipalities in Mpumalanga has improved after interventions by the Mpumalanga COGTA Department through developing and implementing IMSP for the six dysfunctional municipalities. Multi-Departmental Provincial committees have been established to support and monitor the implementation of the IMSP consisting of the PT, SALGA, MISA, DCoG, all local and district municipalities.

Table 10: State of Municipalities in Mpumalanga (2021)

Dysfunctional/High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk	Stable
Dipaleseng LM	Bushbuckridge LM	Chief Albert Luthuli LM	Ehlanzeni DM
Dr JS Moroka LM	City of Mbombela LM	Gert Sibande DM	
Govan Mbeki LM	Emakhazeni LM	Nkangala DM	
Lekwa LM	Emalahleni LM	Steve Tshwete LM	
Msukaligwa LM	Mkhondo LM		
Thaba Chweu LM	Nkomazi LM		
	Pixley ka Seme LM		
	Sithembisile Hani LM		
	Victor Khanye LM		

Source: State of Local Government Report (2021)

Five municipalities, namely: Lekwa, Thaba Tshweu, Msukaligwa, Govan Mbeki, and Emalahleni are under intervention in terms of section 139 (5)(a) of the Constitution and implementing Financial Recovery Plans (FRPs). Four of these municipalities are under Provincial intervention while the Lekwa Local Municipality is under national intervention in terms of section 139 (7) of the Constitution. These interventions have already begun to yield the desired outcomes. According to the State of Local Government Report (2023), there are no municipalities classified as dysfunctional in Mpumalanga and there are now eight (8) municipalities classified as stable as shown in Table 11.

Table 11: State of Municipalities in Mpumalanga (2023)

Dysfunctional/High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk	Stable
	City of Mbombela LM		Ehlanzeni DM
	Dipaleseng LM		Gert Sibande DM
	Emakhazeni LM		Nkangala DM
	Emalahleni LM		Nkomazi LM
	Mkhondo LM		Bushbuckridge LM
	Dr JS Moroka LM		Chief Albert Luthuli LM
	Pixley ka Seme LM		Steve Tshwete LM
	Thaba Chweu LM		Sithembisile Hani LM
	Victor Khanye LM		
	Govan Mbeki LM		
	Lekwa LM		
	Msukaligwa LM		

Source: State of Local Government Report (2023)¹⁰

⁹ State of Government Report (2021). Department: Cooperative Governance. Republic of South Africa. www.cogta.gov.za/index.php/docs/state-of-local-Government-report-2021/

LESSONS LEARNED, CONCLUDING REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The preceding analysis has shown that the Mpumalanga Province has made significant strides in improving the lives of the people who live in it through various achievements in service delivery and good governance. While there are notable gains that have been attained over the last 30 years, challenges remain and the Province cannot rest on its laurels but must keep improving and protecting the gains achieved thus far. These improvements are a result of the concerted collaborative efforts between the three spheres of Government, to make a difference in the lives of our people in Mpumalanga.

Recent innovative approaches to service delivery such as the introduction of the DDM have assisted in improving the quality-of-service delivery by engendering collaboration and cooperation amongst stakeholders, both public and private sector players to have a focussed and better-coordinated approach. The Province could benefit immensely from mobilizing the private sector to provide funding and capacity-building initiatives for development to augment the public purse and state capacity at both the Provincial and local levels through public-private partnerships. The COGTA should continue to support municipalities in building capacity through filling of critical posts with suitably qualified personnel and ensuring proper budgeting and management of such budgets in compliance with the MFMA and other relevant legislations and prescripts.

¹⁰State of Government Report (2023). Department: Cooperative Governance. Republic of South Africa. www.cogta.gov.za/index.php/docs/state-of-local-Government-report-2023/

CHAPTER *[4]*

ECONOMIC PROGRESS, TRANSFORMATION AND EMPLOYMENT



This chapter of the report focuses on the economic progress, transformation and employment outcomes of the 30 years of democracy in Mpumalanga Province. It provides an outline of the national policies that guided economic development in Mpumalanga over the past 30 years and Provincial strategies implemented to achieve the economic outcome indicators on GDP, employment creation, the contribution of industries to employment creation, performance of Provincial industries to the economy, district contributions and foreign direct investment. The chapter concludes with observations and recommendations made for future economic development.

The 1994 democratic Government inherited a country characterised by a population with low educational and skill levels, fragmented education and training system designed to perpetuate apartheid policies, hence it was unequal and parts of it dysfunctional (RDP, 1994).

The post school education and training were fragmented “along racial and ethnic lines and saturated with racist and sexist ideology” (RDP, 1994). In 1994, the official unemployment rate stood at 20%, affecting as many as 24.7% of Africans compared to 3% of Whites. Of the 10 million people in South Africa who had no education, about 8.5 million (85%) were Africans.

The Province’s and the Country’s economies were characterised by structural economic challenges resulted in high unemployment, poverty and inequality (RDP, 1994); lack of financial and productive assets for the majority of households as a result of lack of direct business ownership for black people, and no access to industrial sites, retail sites and credit for black entrepreneurs; poor apartheid spatial planning which placed the black majority on the outskirts of major cities and economic hubs thereby limiting them from accessing economic opportunities; highly concentrated economic sectors which created an environment for anti-competitive behaviour; extreme inequalities in education and skills development for black people as a result of the Bantu education system; and an economy in crisis shaped by apartheid policies, and to some extent the impact of the economic sanctions as well as the dependence on mining exports (RDP 1994).

While Mpumalanga is a Province rich in resources, people and heritage, large-scale joblessness, poverty and inequality have persisted. The Province has been committed to local economic development, promoted through shared and inclusive economic growth via the creation of decent local jobs and sustainable livelihoods.

Thirty years of democracy have come with opportunities and challenges for South Africa and the Mpumalanga Province in economic development. The 30-year journey of economic emancipation comes with good stories to tell in the realm of economic transformation for the country and ordinary citizens of Mpumalanga Province.

NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ASPIRATIONS

Subsequent to the first development policy document developed by the new ANC Government, the RDP 1994, the national Government developed another 4 economic development policies. These national included the Growth, Employment and Redistribution (GEAR) strategy in 1996; the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (ASGISA) in 2006; the New Growth Path (NGP) in 2010, and the National Development Plan (NDP 2030) in 2012. These policies were used to develop the critical economic path and frameworks for the desired outcomes. In line with these national policies, the Mpumalanga Provincial Government developed its own policies and strategies customised to the Provincial dynamics. These were the PGDS in 1996; the MEGDP in 2011; and the MP V2030 in 2013.

THE RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The five key RDP Programmes were meeting basic needs, developing human resources, building the economy, democratising the state and society, and implementing the RDP. The key goals of the industrial strategy were a substantial increase in net national investment, especially in manufacturing, job creation and meeting basic needs. Through the prudent implementation of macroeconomic policies such as monetary policies, increase in public sector investment and gross investment in industry.

Towards the end of 1995, it became apparent that if the economy continued to grow at around 3%, as it was likely to do if no changes were made to the way it was working, the Government could not deliver on what it said it would in the RDP.

The “High Road” suggested a strategy for economic growth and development which targeted 6% economic growth and the creation of 400,000 new jobs annually. For the Government to deliver on its promises to the people, it needed to implement a strategy that would take South Africa along the “High Road” of economic growth and development. This led to the establishment of a Growth Employment and Redistribution framework.

GROWTH EMPLOYMENT AND REDISTRIBUTION FRAMEWORK (GEAR)

GEAR was essentially an economic reform Programme directed towards a competitive and fast-growing economy that would create sufficient jobs for all jobseekers, a redistribution of income and opportunities in favour of the poor, and a society capable of ensuring that sound health, education and other services were available. GEAR sought to get the South African economy onto a new path, one that would ensure a competitive and fast-growing economy, which creates enough jobs for all job-seekers, redistribution of income and opportunities in favour of the poor. (GEAR, 2009).

ACCELERATED AND SHARED GROWTH INITIATIVE FOR SOUTH AFRICA (ASGISA)

In 2006, a new policy, the ASGISA was launched. Its objectives were to introduce policies, Programmes and interventions that would allow the South African economy to grow enough to halve poverty and unemployment between 2004 and 2014. The ASGISA's mandate was to reduce unemployment and poverty while increasing the country's gross domestic product growth rate to a sustainable level of 6% by 2010,

The key targets of the ASGISA were to reduce poverty and unemployment by 50% by 2014; accelerate the economic growth rate by 4.5 % per annum between 2006 and 2009 and accelerate the economic growth rate by 6% per annum between 2010 and 2014. The target of reducing poverty by half to 14% or less by 2010 appeared to be endangered, as well as the target of halving unemployment between 2004 and 2014. This was followed by the NDP 2030 which came into effect to guide the economic transformation in South Africa and Mpumalanga Province.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2030 (NDP 2030)

The NDP 2030 aimed to achieve the following objectives by 2030: Encourage citizens to be active in their development, strengthen democracy, hold their Government accountable, raise economic growth, promote exports, and make the economy more labour absorbing.

The NDP 2030 focused on the critical capabilities needed to transform the economy and society, which were: Raising employment through faster economic growth and sustainable increase in employment through a faster-growing economy, introducing active labour market policies and incentives to grow employment, particularly for young people and in sectors employing relatively low-skilled people, expand public employment programmes to one million participants by 2015 and two million by 2020.

South Africa could benefit from rapid growth that leads to increased demand for commodities and expanding consumer markets: by 2030 eliminate income poverty, and reduce the proportion of households with a monthly income below R419 per person (in 2009 prices) from 39% to zero.

The Gini-coefficient was expected to fall from 0.69 to 0.6. Enabling milestones included an increase in employment from 13 million in 2010 to 24 million by 2030. There were also targets of raising per capita income from R50 000 in 2010 to R120 000 by 2030; increasing the share of national income of the bottom 40% from 6% to 10% and maintaining public infrastructure investment at 10% of the gross domestic product (GDP), financed through tariffs, public-private partnerships, taxes, and loans and focused on transport, energy and water.

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE VISION 2030 AND ECONOMIC GROWTH DEVELOPMENT PATH (MEGDP)

The MP V2030 aims to create a long-term perspective on the Province's development. The goals of the MP V2030 and the MEGDP include the following: Increase economic growth, reduce inequality, and promote economic transformation; Poverty Reduction: Reduce poverty and ensure that all citizens have access to basic services and social protection. To this effect the MDIP, MIMP, HSMP, HRDS and SDMP, FNP, served as tools to implement the MP V2030.

MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Over the three decades, the national GDP remained volatile and interest rates have risen and fallen. On average, inflation and nominal interest rates remained significantly lower than in the 1980s and early 1990s. However, the sound macroeconomic policy promoted stable prices, lower interest rates, and exchange rates enabling economic strategy and growth. This has been similar at the Provincial level within Mpumalanga. The national budget deficit was about 1,0% in 2003, having declined from 9,5% in 1993. The 2023/24 budget deficit was 4.9% of GDP expected to reach 3.3% by the end of 2024. GDP Annual Growth Rate in South Africa averaged 2.38% from 1994 until 2024, reaching an all-time high of 19.40% in the second quarter of 2021 and a record low of -16.20% in the second quarter of 2020. The policy implementation led to various achievements outlined below in the past 30 years.

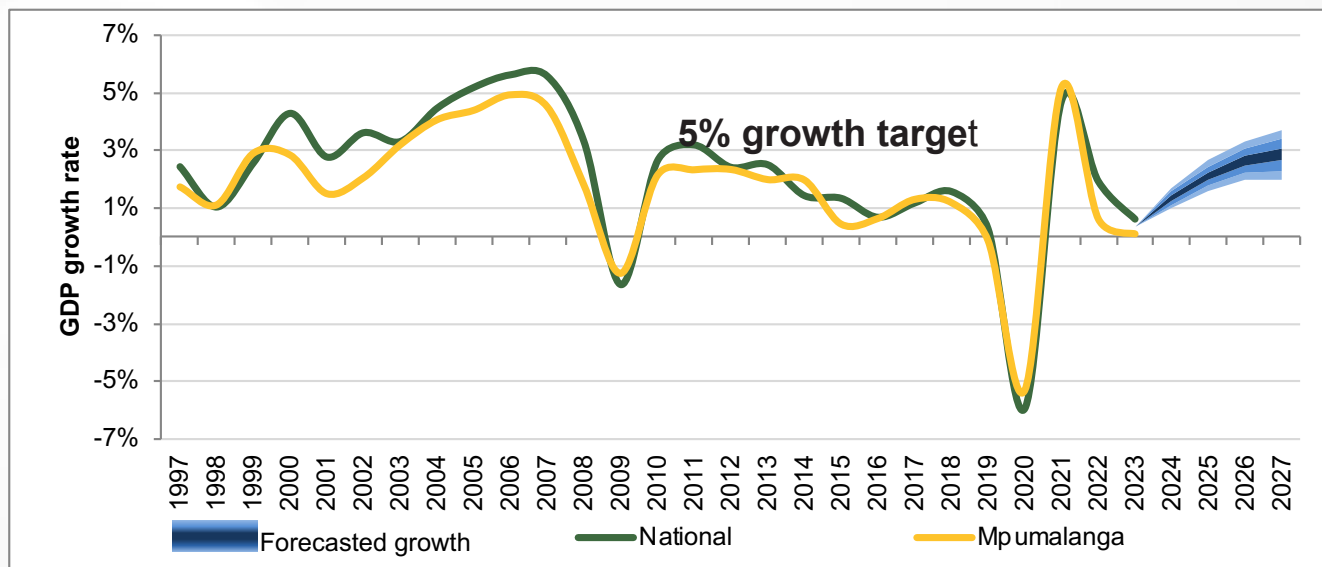
These achievements including the GDP were influenced by many internal and external factors that were beyond the Province's control. Since the early 2000s, the South African and Provincial economy moved through several phases. There were years of strong growth (1996, 2004-2007, 2010-2011) followed by a sharp contraction due to the global financial crisis beginning in 2008. While the economy seemed to recover comparatively well in the immediate aftermath of the global financial crisis, it slowed in 2011, embarking on a sustained downward trend. GDP expressed in per capita measurement lagged. This worsened after the global financial crisis between 2014 and 2020. Between 1995 and 2003, the national GDP growth averaged nearly 3%, double the recorded growth rate between 1980 and 1994.

Between 2014 and 2019, weak commodity markets, electricity supply constraints, logistic challenges, and policy uncertainty contributed to poor performance of manufacturing, and mining in delivering export earnings. This was followed by the outbreak of Covid-19, which led to economic regression and unemployment.

PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

The Provincial economy increased well over the years in size but did not increase at the desired pace/tempo annually. The annual growth rate has been relatively low since 1994 up to now, and well below the economic growth rate targets of the Government. The economic growth of the Province, as measured by growth in the GDP, was lower than the national rate. The Provincial economy has outperformed the national economy in terms of GDP growth only in 1998, 1999, 2003, 2009, and 2014.

Figure 18: Percentage growth target and rate, 1997-2024

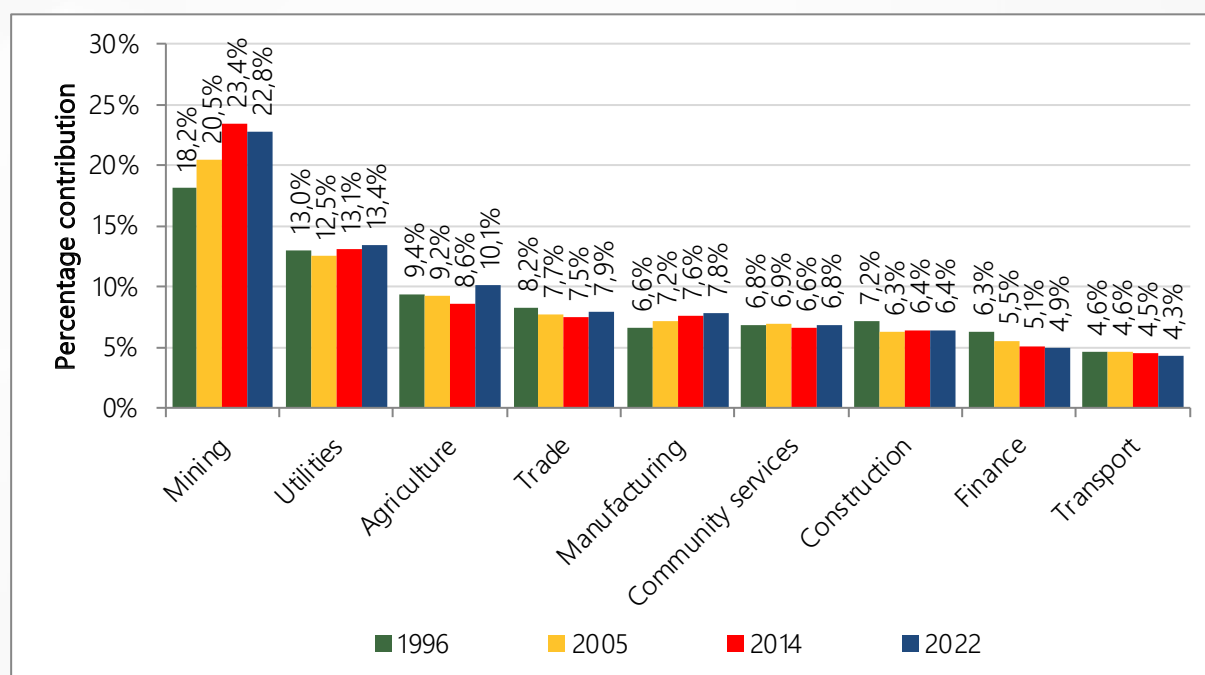


Source: Socio-economic review & outlook for Mpumalanga SERO March 2024

Due to the moderate economic growth experienced in South Africa over the last 30 years, the South African economy has not doubled between 1996 and 2023. (Figure 18).

From 1996 to 2022, the contribution of each of the economic industries in Mpumalanga to the corresponding national industry varied. The mining industry contributed 18.2% to the national mining industry in 1996 and the contribution increased to 22.8% in 2022. It is noticeable that the contribution by Mpumalanga's mining, utilities, agriculture, and manufacturing industries increased between 1996 and 2022, whereas the industries' contributions, except for community services, declined.

Figure 19: Mpumalanga's contribution to South Africa's industries at constant prices, 1996-2022



Source: Socio-economic review & outlook for Mpumalanga SERO March 2024

Before the COVID-19 outbreak in 2019, the economy of South Africa was already underperforming with a low 0.3% growth rate and a quarter-on-quarter GDP growth (seasonally adjusted) in Q1 2020 of only 0.2%. In Q2 2020, when the COVID-19 lockdown was most severe, the South African economy contracted by 16.9% (seasonally adjusted) and the Mpumalanga economy by 18.6%. With the easing of the lockdown, the national and Provincial economies expanded again in Q3 2020 by 13.7% and 17.7%, respectively. The national economy eventually contracted by 6.0% in 2020 and the Mpumalanga economy by 5.3%.

The national and Provincial economies have faced persistent challenges in their economic recovery efforts since 2020, grappling with domestic and global factors. On the domestic front, load shedding has posed a significant obstacle, while globally, modest growth hindered mostly by supply chain bottlenecks has compounded the difficulties. In 2021, the South African and Mpumalanga economies registered respective, economic growth of 4.7% and 5.2% from the low base of 2020. In 2022, the national and Provincial economies registered low and uneven growth of 1.9% and 0.6%, respectively.

Mpumalanga's highest period of growth was between 2003 and 2007 (growth rates of over 4% just before the global financial crisis and recession in 2008/09), and the lowest period of growth (largest contraction) was between 2016 and 2021.

The Provincial economy did not fully recover after the 2008/09 global financial crisis and recession. There was some economic recovery between 2010 and 2014. However, from 2015 a low growth rate was recorded, in line with the national growth challenges. Mpumalanga experienced a negative growth rate in 2019, just before the outbreak of COVID-19 leading to a huge contraction of over 5% in 2020.

The sectoral performance of Mpumalanga from 1994 up to date, includes economic contribution from sectors with an annual growth rate of over 2.5%, namely: transport and communication, finance and agriculture. The industries that regressed the Provincial growth with growth rates less than 1% annual growth, were mining and utilities/electricity.

¹¹ Q-o-q analysis compares the current quarter to the previous quarter.

After 2019, the best-performing sector was the services sector (trade, transport, finance and community services), and agriculture with relatively high average annual growth rates. The problematic industries with low or even negative growth rates were mining, utilities, and construction, which were in a recession before the COVID-19 pandemic.

EMPLOYMENT CREATION

The creation of decent employment opportunities is an outcome of most, if not all Government initiatives. The fundamental outputs to be achieved was to promote employment creation and increase the number of decent jobs, stimulate inclusive growth, and diversify the economy towards more employment-generating and higher value added activities.

The unemployment rate represents the percentage of the labour force actively seeking employment but unable to find work. A declining unemployment rate indicates an improvement in the availability of job opportunities relative to the labour force size. Persistent high unemployment rates can indicate structural issues in the economy, such as skills mismatches, insufficient job creation, or barriers to entry into the labour market.

Over the 30 years of democracy, the Mpumalanga Province has made strides to achieve continuously most of its outcome indicators as outlined below. The Province can reflect and learn that its efforts and economic transformation targets and plans were aligned with the national targets and were in most outcome indicators within the threshold. The following sections of this report provide the journey the Province has walked over 30 years to transform the Provincial economy, contribute to the national economic targets, and better the lives of the citizens.

This section outlines the employment trends in the Province over the past 30 years and its linkage to economic transformation in the Province and South Africa. South Africa's labour market has expanded and transformed over the last three decades.

PROVINCIAL EMPLOYMENT/JOB CREATION

The Provincial employment level increased from more or less 600,000 workers after 1994, to 1.16 million (over 7% of the South African employment number) in Q2 of 2023. The formal sector employed about 55.9% of workers while the informal sector employed about 27.3%. Regarding sectors/industries, the largest employers are community services (22%), trade (22%) and finance (10%). The share of agriculture was 8.7%, but in numbers over 100,000 workers. What is important to note is that over 150,000 people in the Province were involved in subsistence farming.

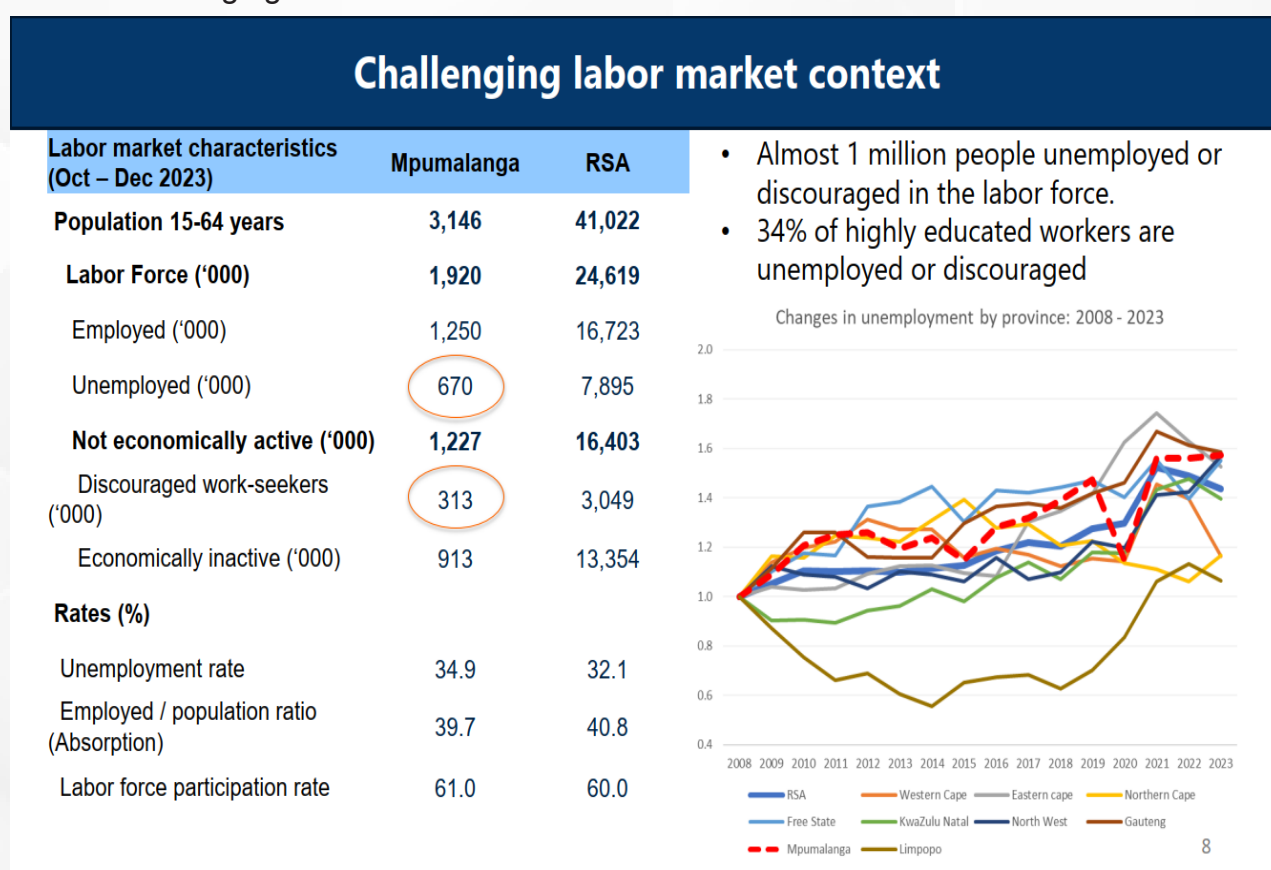
The number of people employed in the Province was 627 081 in 1996. It grew to 1.24 million in 2019 and declined to 1.16 million by 2023 (Table 12). In 2024, the number decreased by 8,000 by May 2024. The official unemployment rate was relatively high at 26.8% by 1996 and deteriorated further to 33.6% by 2019 and to 38.4% by 2023. The unemployment rate between Q4 of 2023 to Q1 of 2024 was 34.9% to 36.2%.

Table 12: Mpumalanga employment indicators

Measure	Indicator	1996 or earliest available	2019	2023 or latest available (annual figure)
Employment	Number of employed	627 081	1.24 million	1.16 million
Unemployment	Official unemployment rate	26.8%	33.6%	38.4%
	Youth unemployment rate	36.7%	46.8%	51.0%

Source: SA QLFS (1996-2023)

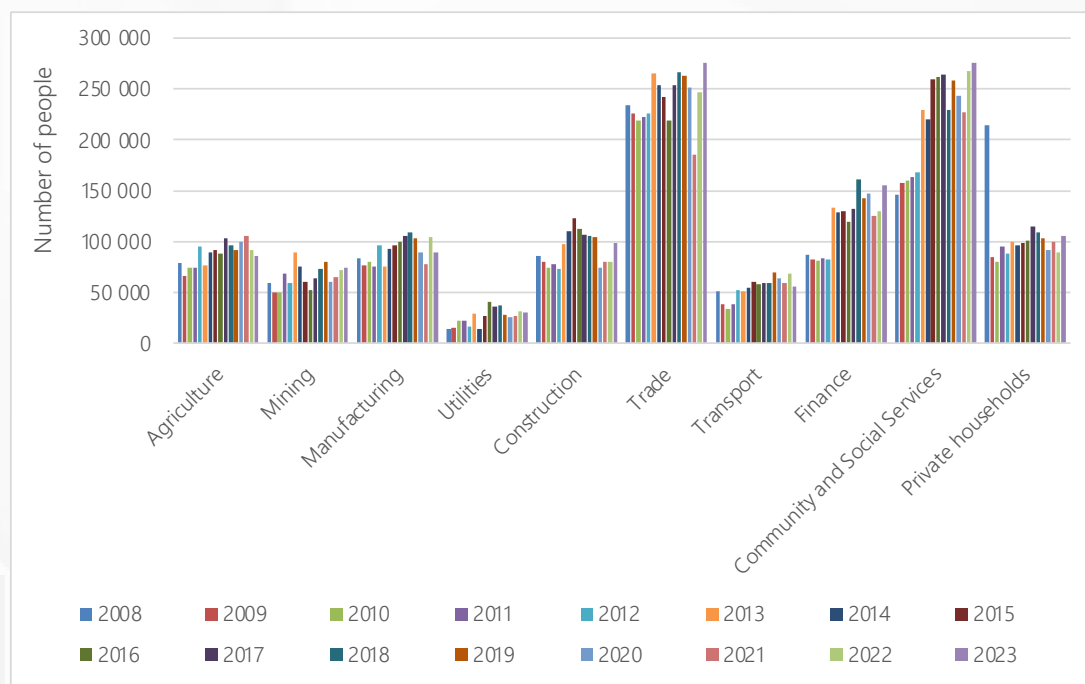
The labour market for Mpumalanga experienced changes in unemployment from 2008 to 2023. Unemployment fluctuated by 1.0 to 1.4% between 2008 and 2023. All Provinces experienced increases in the number of unemployed between 2008 and 2024. Others might have increased by a lower % but all are worse off than in 2008 (Figure 20).

Figure 20: Challenging the Labour Market

Source: Stats SA QLFS (2008-2023)

From 2008 to 2023 various industries of the economy contributed to the employment of different people. Trade, and community services industries employed a higher % than other industries from 2008 to 2023. The largest two contributing industries from 2008 to 2023 were trade and community and social services and in 2024 these industries continue to make a significant contribution. The specific industry that increased its share significantly over the period under consideration was community and social services while the industry where the share remained steady was utilities (Figure 21).

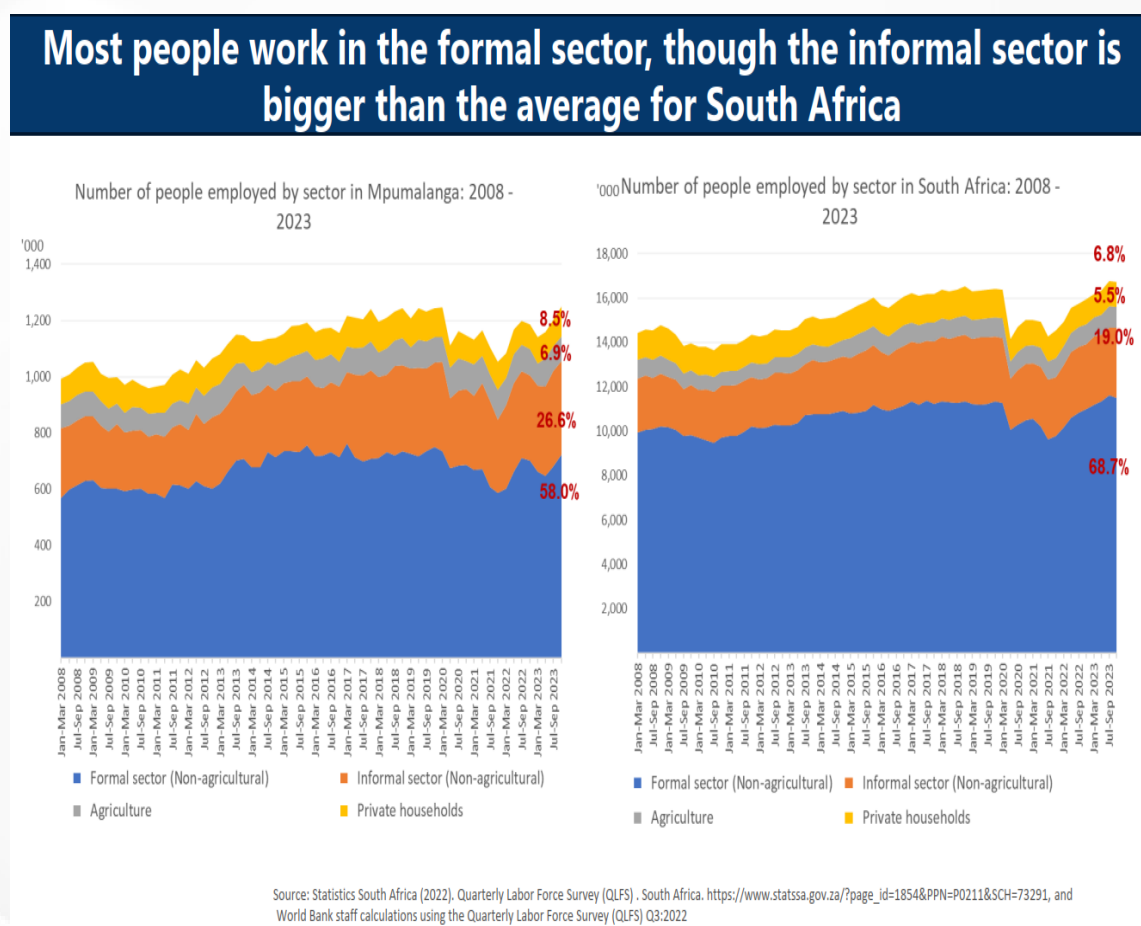
Figure 21: Employment by industry, 2008-2023



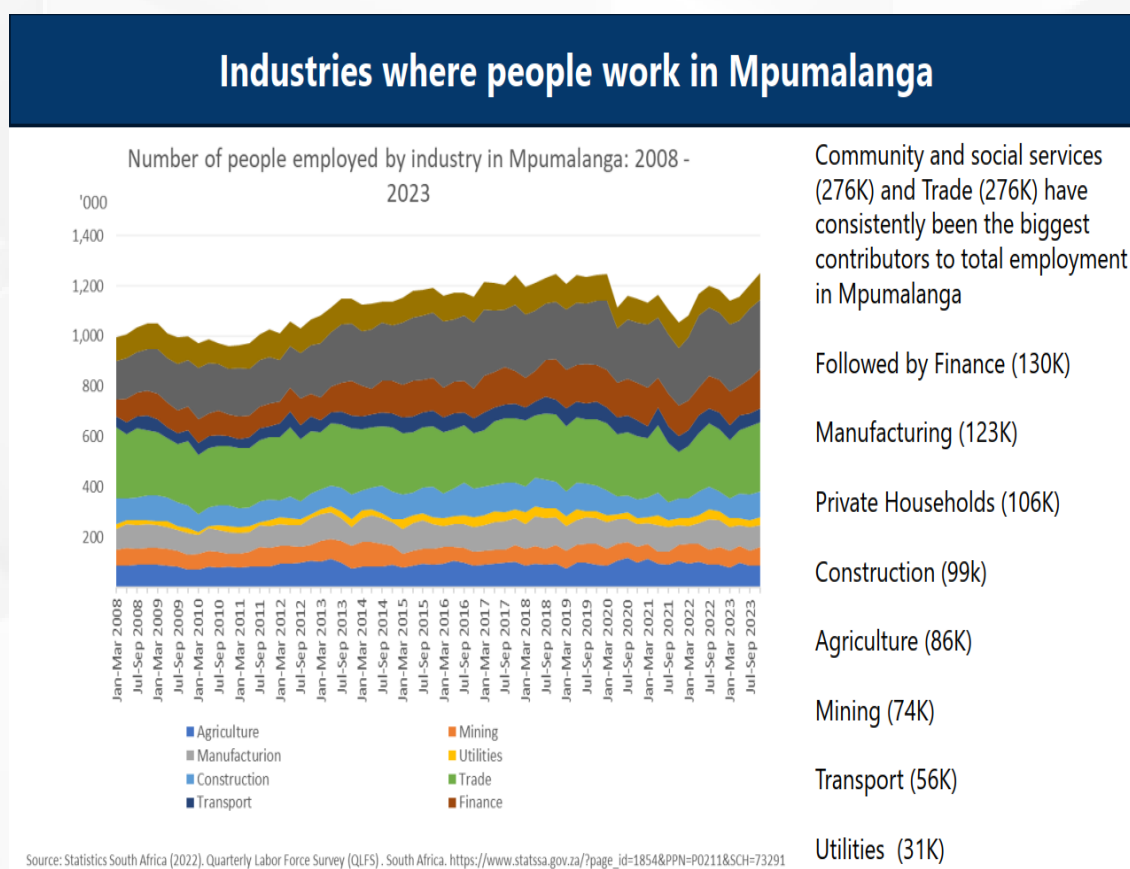
Source: Stats SA QLFS (2008-2023)

The Stacked Area Chart below shows the distribution of employment by sector from 2008 to 2023. The number and percentage of employees were higher in formal employment than in other employment sectors. There was a slight increase in formal sector employment across the period on the Statistics South Africa calculations and World Bank calculations. In all sectors there is a slight increase from 2008 to 2023 employment percentages (Figure 22).

Figure 22: Employment in the formal and informal sector

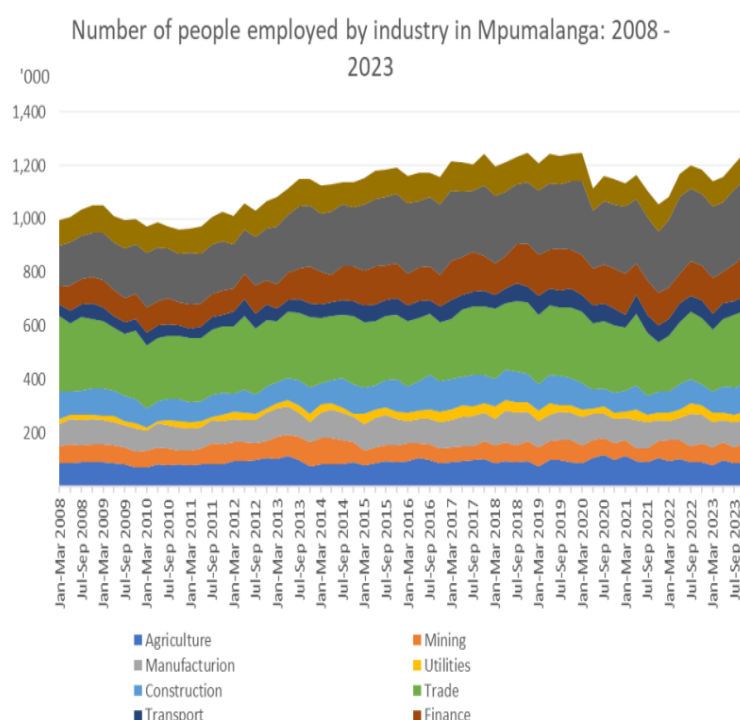


Source: Stats SA QLFS (2008-2023)



Source: Stats SA QLFS (2008-2023)

Industries where people work in Mpumalanga



Source: Statistics South Africa (2022), Quarterly Labor Force Survey (QLFS), South Africa. https://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=1854&PPN=P0211&SCH=73291

Community and social services (276K) and Trade (276K) have consistently been the biggest contributors to total employment in Mpumalanga

Followed by Finance (130K)

Manufacturing (123K)

Private Households (106K)

Construction (99k)

Agriculture (86K)

Mining (74K)

Transport (56K)

Utilities (31K)

Table 13: Job gains and losses per industry (last 1, 2, 5 & 10 years)

Industry	Q4 2023 employment level	10-year change (Q4 2013 to Q4 2023)	5-year change (Q4 2018 to Q4 2023)	2-year change (Q4 2021- Q4 2023)	1-year change (2023)
Agriculture	86 381	9 769	-9 832	-19 428	-5 323
Mining	74 108	-14 806	1 606	9 454	2 271
Manufacturing	89 404	13 086	-19 793	11 452	-16 048
Utilities	30 888	671	-5 741	3 430	-1 583
Construction	99 184	1 442	-6 438	19 364	19 519
Trade	275 608	10 225	9 048	90 404	28 270
Transport	56 460	5 617	-3 438	-2 961	-12 585
Finance	156 353	21 965	-4 690	31 126	26 670
Community services	275 623	47 107	46 725	48 746	7 950
Private households	106 129	6 525	-2 690	6 094	17 165
MP net job gains/losses	1 250 139	101 582	4 757	197 681	63 869
SA net job gains/losses	16 723 195	1 546 440	194 496	2 179 063	788 701
% contribution to Job gain by MP to all job gain by SA	7.48%	6.57%	2.45%	9.07%	8.10%

Source: Stats SA QLFS 2024

PROVINCIAL UNEMPLOYMENT

The Provincial unemployment rate deteriorated gradually since 1994 from approximately 27% to 33.6% in 2019 and 38.4% in Q2 2023. In the process, the number of unemployed people (strict definition) also deteriorated from more or less 230,000 people after 1994 to 628,822 in 2019 and 722 877 people in Q2 2023. Mpumalanga's unemployment rate of 36.2% was the fourth highest of the nine Provinces.

From 1996 to 2022 Mpumalanga registered a steady percentage between 7% and 8.6% of income earned by the poorest 40% in the Province. This was slightly higher than the national figure. Regarding income earned by the poorest 40% from 1996 to 2022, Ehlanzeni district had the highest share of income by the poorest 40% ranging from 9.5% in 1996 to 8.4% in 2022. (See Table 14).

Table 14: Share of income earned by poorest 40% in Mpumalanga 1996-2022

Region	1996	2000	2005	2009	2014	2018	2022
South Africa	7.3%	6.0%	6.3%	6.3%	6.5%	6.5%	7.2%
Mpumalanga	8.6%	7.0%	7.3%	7.4%	7.5%	7.5%	8.0%
Gert Sibande	8.4%	6.7%	6.9%	7.1%	7.2%	7.3%	7.8%
Nkangala	8.1%	6.9%	6.9%	7.1%	7.4%	7.3%	7.8%
Ehlanzeni	9.5%	7.7%	8.0%	8.1%	8.1%	8.0%	8.4%

Source: Socio-economic review & outlook for Mpumalanga SERO March 2024

MPUMALANGA ECONOMIC TRENDS

The Mpumalanga economy continues to contribute to the SA Economy. In 2022 Mpumalanga made an 8.0% contribution to South Africa in current prices and a 7.4% contribution in 2015 prices. The Provincial economy increased to an economy of more than R530 billion (current prices) in 2022, which was significantly higher than the size just after 1994. At current prices, the Provincial economy was the fourth largest of the ninth Provinces in 2022 according to a recent Stats SA publication on the Provincial GDPs, with a contribution of around 8% to the national economy.

The investment of the public and private sector contributed to the increase in the size of the economy. Investment by mining houses and big companies, such as Sasol, Sappi, Columbus Stainless Steel, PG Bison, Sonae Arauco, the building of Kusile power station, etc, increased the GDP of the Province significantly over the years.

The structure of the Mpumalanga economy did not change significantly between 1994 and 2024. The lowlight is the decline in the share of industries, such as mining and transport, to the Provincial economy.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROVINCIAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

Mpumalanga Province has been proactive in positioning itself as a competitive player in the regional and global markets. Through strategic planning, investment in infrastructure, and targeted policies to support key industries, the Province has been able to attract investment, create job opportunities, and stimulate economic growth. Over the past three decades, Mpumalanga has diversified its economy, promoted entrepreneurship, and leveraged its natural resources to enhance its competitiveness in sectors such as mining, agriculture, tourism, and renewable energy.

One of the indicators regarding the extent to which the Mpumalanga Province is competitive is the

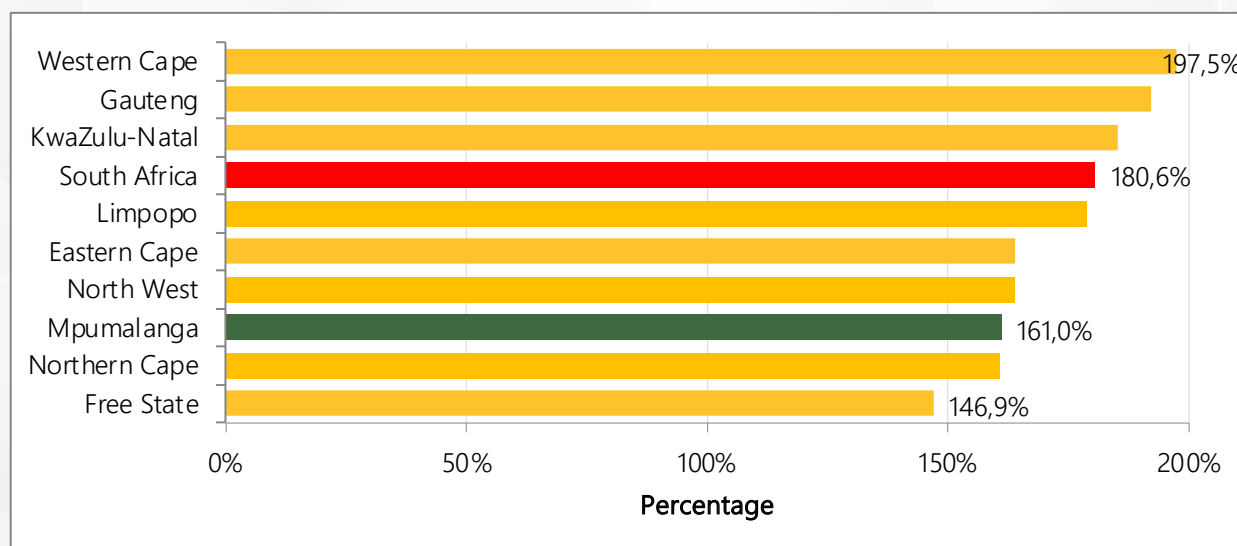
Provincial Gross Domestic Product. Comparing the Mpumalanga Province to other eight Provinces in South Africa gives an indication of where the Province is in relation to other Provinces. Between 2013 and 2022, Mpumalanga has contributed between 7,5% and 8,2% of the overall national Gross domestic Product in South Africa. The largest contributors were Gauteng Province which contributes 33% followed by the KwaZulu-Natal Province which contributes between 15% and 16% and the Western Cape Province which contributes between 13% and 14%. The Eastern Cape Province's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product is similar to the contribution made by the Mpumalanga Province. Four Provinces, namely, Limpopo (very close to Mpumalanga and often surpassing it), North West and Free State and the Northern Cape have consistently contributed less than the Mpumalanga Province.

Mpumalanga's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product is measured by the contribution of a number of industries. Regarding the contribution to the Provincial value added in 2022 as a percentage, Mpumalanga contributes 23% to mining, 16% to personal services, 15% to finance, 13% to manufacturing, 12% to trade, 5% to utilities and 15% from other activities.

While the GDP contribution of the Mpumalanga Province may be better than four other Provinces, it is important to note that the Province's growth was lower than the four Provinces mentioned in the previous paragraph. In 2022, the GDP growth of the Mpumalanga Province was 0,6%. This was the lowest growth in the country only comparable to the North-West Province.

The long-term national GDP growth from 1994 to 2024 averaged 2.38%. The economy has been in a low growth trap, with average growth below population growth. Real GDP per capita regressed from R76 100 in 2010 to R72 200 in 2023. Growth rates at different points over the last three decades have been inadequate to offset the high unemployment rate (DPME, 2024).

Figure 24: GDP at constant prices expressed as a percentage of 1996 GDP values in South Africa & Provinces, 2023



Sources: Stats SA – Provincial gross domestic product: experimental estimates, 2013-2022 S&P Global – ReX, December 2023

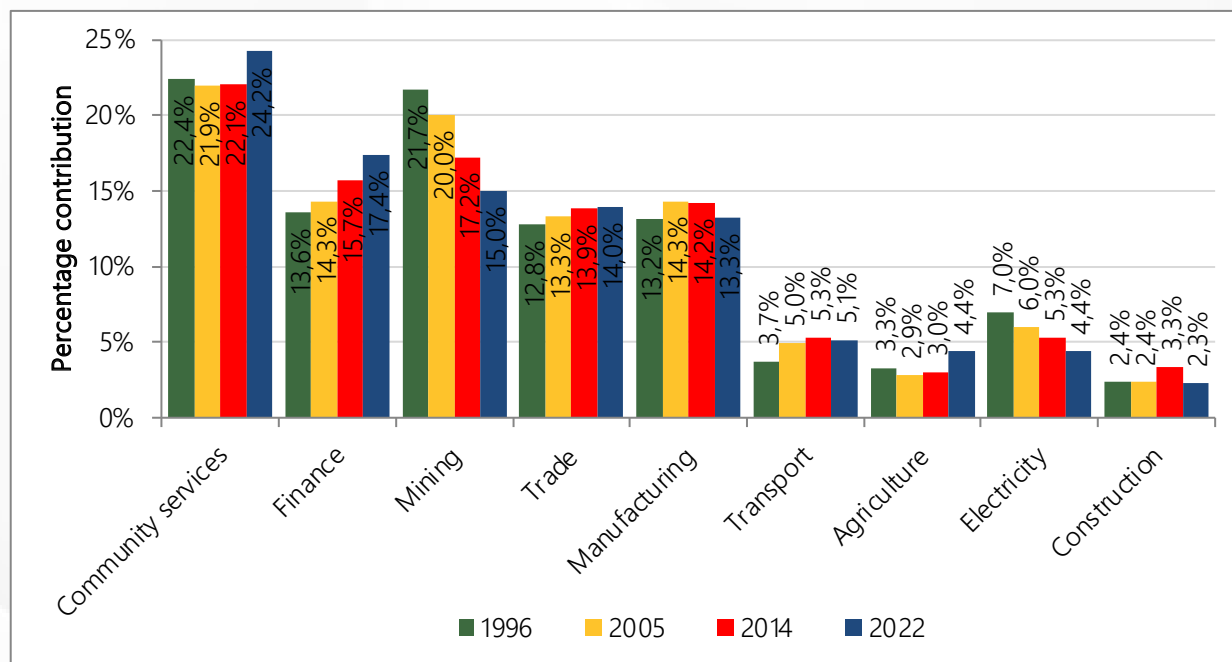
DIVERSIFICATION AND COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE OF THE ECONOMY

The Mpumalanga Tress index edged marginally higher (more concentrated) from 40.05 in 2010 to 40.32 in 2023. It is so small, demonstrating a marginal concentration increase between 2010 (35.9) and 2020 (40.7) (Quantec, 2021). The Location Quotient for the Province, between 2010 and 2020 showcased a comparative advantage in the following economic industries, being mining, utilities, agriculture and trade.

Contribution to the Mpumalanga GDP by Industries

From 1996 to 2022, the contribution to Mpumalanga's GDP at constant prices by industry, saw various industries contributing various percentages. Community services contributed the most throughout and its contribution of 22.4% in 1996 increased to 24.2% in 2022. Finance was the second highest contributor in 2022, and showed a large increase in contribution to GDP between 1996 and 2022. While mining contribution was third in terms of percentage contribution, the industry experienced a sharp decline between 1996 and 2022. (Figure 25).

Figure 25: Percentage Contribution of sectors to the Mpumalanga GDP at constant prices by industry, 1996-2022



Source: Socio-economic review & outlook for Mpumalanga SERO March 2024

Between 1996 and 2023, the GDP growth rates at constant prices for Mpumalanga's economic industries saw agriculture and transport growing at 3.1% per annum, respectively. Other industries expanded by between 0.4% and 2.8%, see Table 15 below.

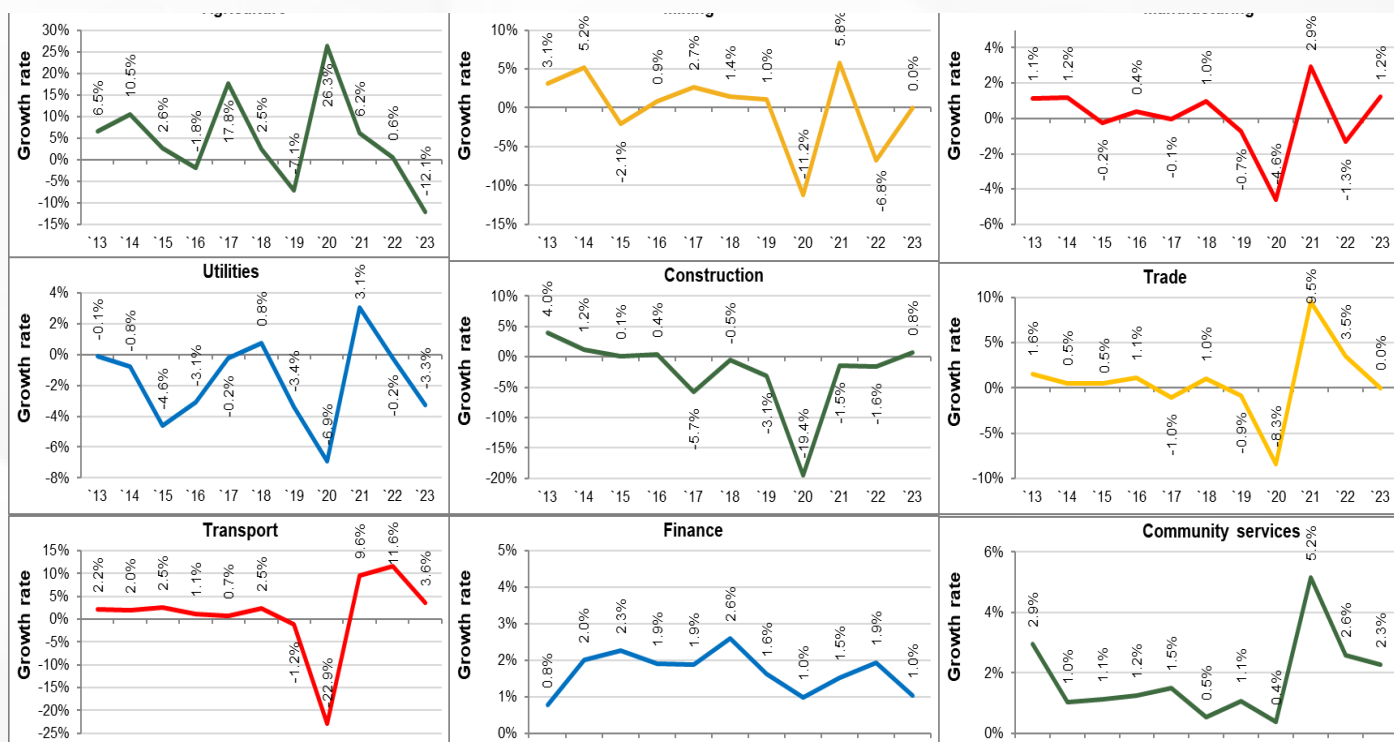
Table 15: GDP growth rates at constant prices for Mpumalanga's economic industries, 1996 - 2023

Industry	1996-2023
Agriculture	3.1%
Mining	0.4%
Primary sector	0.9%
Manufacturing	1.9%
Utilities	0.1%
Construction	1.8%
Secondary sector	1.4%
Trade	2.3%
Transport	3.1%
Finance	2.8%
Community services	2.2%
Tertiary sector	2.5%
Total	1.8%

Sources: Source: Socio-economic review & outlook for Mpumalanga SERO March 2024

The line graphs above show the sector-specific growth rate from 2013 to 2023. There is an overall fall in growth rate in 2019 and 2020, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, except for agriculture, which actually grew in 2020 and then dwindled in subsequent years. After that a steady growth. These industries, Agriculture, Utilities, Mining, Trade, Community Services, and Construction Growth Rate fluctuated from 2013 to 2023. Transport, Finance, and Manufacturing recorded a moderate growth rate. Finance and Community Services recorded Growth each year from 2013 to 2023. Construction shows recovery into growth from a slump that started in 2016. Year on year fluctuation in growth rate paint a picture of instability in Mining, Manufacturing, Agriculture, Utilities, Construction, and Trade (Figure 26).

Figure 26: Mpumalanga Economic Sectors growth rates, 2013-2023



Source: S&P Global 2024

DISTRICT'S CONTRIBUTION TO MPUMALANGA'S ECONOMY

Gert Sibande District (36.6%) was the leading district in terms of agricultural Gross Value Addition (GVA) in 2022, followed by Ehlanzeni District (34.0%) and Nkangala District (29.3%). From 2017 to 2022, the contributions to Mpumalanga's agriculture industry by both Gert Sibande and Nkangala Districts increased.

The mining industry in the Province was dominated by Nkangala District with a 59.7% contribution in 2022. Nkangala District also made the largest contribution to the Provincial manufacturing (35.1%) and utilities (42.8%) industries. Ehlanzeni District made the largest contribution to the Provincial construction (43.9%), trade (45.0%), transport (38.6%), finance (46.1%) and community services (47.4%) industries. Ehlanzeni District was the largest contributor to the Provincial economy's GVA, with a share of 38.0% in 2022.

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

Over the 30 years, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has played a considerable role in the development of Mpumalanga's economy. Since the dawn of democracy, Mpumalanga Province has been at work to rebuild and reconstruct a transformed economy. While significant strides have been made since 1994, the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality remain. This was exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Provincial IPA Mpumalanga indicated that targeting investors was a cost-effective approach to attract FDI. From 1994, exports were based on the mining value chain, including heavy coal-based chemicals from Sasol and refined metals, which accounted for half of all national exports, although less than 10% of employment and 20% of total value added. Mining economies in Mpumalanga were typically highly concentrated because most mining requires large producers. The Province has been at the forefront of the country's manufacturing capability in areas such as sawn timber, chipboard, furniture and manufactured wood products for the building industry.

The major export markets were the Far East, Europe and the UK. Black empowerment group Vuka Forestry Holdings has grown its holdings in the sector in recent years in terms of hectares under forest and by acquiring trading companies. Other markets for FDI were Germany and China as the main countries considered for inward investment to South Africa, building on South Africa's relationship with the other BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and its good trade relationship with Europe.

KEY OBSERVATIONS

Mpumalanga Province embarked on a journey to address the imbalances of the past through the implementation of progressive economic development policies building on the national agenda.

The Provincial economic development has been enabled and disabled by the macro and micro policies, and the global economic crisis and pressure. The Provincial efforts have remained relevant in the South African economy despite the employment creation and unemployment remaining unbalanced. The economic industries in the Province have performed steadily in the past 30 years. Implementation of policies has generated considerable investment and created employment opportunities across the targeted industrial sectors.

Notwithstanding the wide range of sectoral interventions, the Province's manufacturing sector continued to be under significant strain. It has not had the desired macroeconomic impact to put the economy on a higher and more inclusive growth path. Provincially the situation was similar in Mpumalanga despite few industries performing steadily in the 30 years of democracy. Despite all odds, the Mpumalanga economy contributed to GDPs, job creation, exports and the development of the Province.

INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICES

Best practices can be learnt from developed countries' regions or Provinces that did well. In Canada, Iceland, Switzerland and the Middle East, in North Korea, Malaysia and China where economic development at Provincial levels was diverse and multifaceted. Local economies have been cascaded to small businesses supported in all forms with capacity building, and financial and market support. This increased market diversity, employment and GDP.

In the complex world of the early 21st century, regions large and small need to be fast and flexible in adapting to the challenges of an increasingly competitive and rapidly changing set of factors that are both exogenous and endogenous to a region. This requires a commitment to good practice techniques for analysing regional performance and to the process of regional economic development and strategy planning. It requires a commitment to sustained leadership.

The role of regions (Provinces) in national economies has changed significantly in recent times because of globalisation and structural adjustment. Understanding these processes of change is crucial for undertaking regional economic analysis and in planning for regional development.

Countries that have experienced economic growth at national and Provincial or regional levels were those that applied the following:

- (a) Value adding through increasing the economic, social and environmental benefits of projects and programmes.
- (b) Viewing the social and environmental consequences of economic activity as part of the solution, not as costs or problems.
- (c) Encouraging organisations to understand how to optimise value adding multipliers and value change.
- (d) Ensuring investments become more strategic to gain from the benefits of cumulative causation.
- (e) Persuading organisational management to become increasingly concerned with the management of externalities and balancing this with the internal local values and capacity to manage systems.
- (f) Promoting multi-sector approaches to problem-solving and decision-making, involving building new systems of governance.

Asia's share of global GDP jumped from 4.1% to 24.0%; the region's share increased from 13.4% to 33.5% when Japan, Australia, and New Zealand were included. Development required efficient markets, an effective state, and strong institutions. Markets, prices, and competition were critical for the efficient allocation of resources, and the creation of entrepreneurial incentives.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) Strategically position the Mpumalanga economy in the world market.
- (b) Strengthen the implementation of sound macroeconomic policies and rapid liberalisation of trade and investment markets.
- (c) Stable political environment and Government commitment to investment facilitation. Increase large, growing domestic markets and good access to African and Indian Ocean markets.
- (d) Adopt the revised economic development models based on the Asian countries' approach to developing modern manufacturing and services that create better-paying jobs and policies that aim to raise the income-earning capacity of the poor and low-income households.
- (e) Invest in economic reforms post 2024.

CHAPTER *[5]*

ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE



The chapter outlines the national economic infrastructure development policies, the NDP 2030's focus on economic infrastructure, Mpumalanga's economic infrastructure development initiatives, and the economic reconstruction and recovery plan. It also highlights the outcomes of the economic infrastructure development, road network, road asset management system, coal haulage network and the development of the Maputo corridor.

ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

Major policy developments in the South African energy landscape after 1994 include the White Paper on Energy Policy in 1998, which sought to introduce reforms to the electricity supply system, including the restructuring of Eskom; the Nuclear Energy Act and National Nuclear Regulatory Act of 1999; the Gas Act, 2001; the White Paper on Renewable Energy of 2003, which targeted 4% renewable energy contribution to the total energy consumption and the relevant technologies required to diversify the energy system, such as solar, hydro, biomass, and wind; the National Energy Regulator Act of 2004 and establishing the National Energy Regulator of South Africa of 2005; the Electricity Regulation Act, 2006; the Nuclear Energy Policy, 2008; the National Energy Act, 2008; the Integrated Resource Plan for Electricity in 2010 and its proposed revisions in 2019; and the Electricity Regulations on New Generation Capacity, 2020.

Some legislation are currently under review, namely the National Nuclear Regulator Amendment Bill, 2023, currently in Parliament, which provides for the strengthening of the National Nuclear Regulator; the Electricity Regulation Amendment Bill, 2023, which includes the introduction of electricity market reforms has also been tabled in Parliament and the Gas Amendment Bill is in the process of being revised (National 30 year review report, 2023).

The NDP 2030 outlines the importance of energy needs. The country needed an additional 29 000MW of electricity by 2030. About 10 900MW of existing capacity is to be retired, implying a new built of over 40 000MW. Most of these coal-fired power stations are located in Mpumalanga Province. At least 20 000MW of this capacity should come from renewable sources.

Infrastructure delivery plays a crucial role in advancing the course of human, social and economic development. It is for this reason that leveraging on the ends of infrastructure delivery has been advocated by Development Planners and Policymakers, as a catalyst for rapid growth and an economic stimulant.

MPUMALANGA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

Mpumalanga Provincial Government's investment in infrastructure over the 30 years remained at the top of its development agenda. Mpumalanga's infrastructure development Masterplan has focused on addressing the backlog and narrowing the dichotomy between the rich and poor.

As a developmental state, the Government has identified and focused on development priorities and has pursued these in an interventionist and purposeful manner. Investment in infrastructure builds economic capacity and enhances competitiveness while contributing to the quality of life of poor people.

MPUMALANGA ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION AND RECOVERY PLAN (MERRP)

The national and Provincial economic challenges, worsened by sustained low levels of investment and growth and credit ratings downgrade, affected adversely on the cost of borrowing and low levels of growth. The increasing budget deficit and a rising stock of debt constrained the fiscal space. This necessitated a plan to help the Province take advantage of the opportunities presented by the global economy.

The strategic objective of the MERRP was to mitigate the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy and livelihoods and to place the Provincial economy on a growth trajectory that creates more job opportunities for the people of Mpumalanga. The plan was aligned with the national ERRP. The plan adopted the project-based implementation approach - focusing on Game Changer Projects and targeted programmes implemented through the District Delivery Model.

The MERRP, prioritised aggressive investment; employment-oriented strategic localisation; reindustrialisation and export promotion; energy security; support for tourism recovery and growth; gender equality and economic inclusion of women and youth; green economy interventions; mass public employment interventions; strengthening food security and macroeconomic interventions. Various priority projects were identified per district.

The MIDP highlights the resource-intensive and upstream beneficiation sectors dominating the productive economy of the Province and is characterised by large globally competitive corporations. Industrialisation is aimed at developing globally competitive industries which continuously improve and innovate to respond to market demands. The model for industrialisation of the Mpumalanga economy comprised of (a) targeted industrial centres of competence, and (b) implementation of key Industrial Capability Development initiatives. Six industrial centres of competence were identified and were rationalised into three, with one linked to the Nkomazi Special Economic Zone.

INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY PROCESSES

The Infrastructure Delivery Improvement Process (IDIP) was introduced as part of the Delivery Management System in 2004 to improve the planning and management of the public sector delivery process. The IDIP has been adopted and institutionalised by the DPWRT, as the benchmark for infrastructure delivery and offers systems and tools to guide and assist Implementation Managers throughout the project development cycle.

In 2012, the Infrastructure Delivery Management System (IDMS) was introduced. The system was developed through the IDIP, a partnership between the National Treasury, the CIDB, the Departments of Public Works, Education and Health and the DBSA. It aims to improve planning, budgeting, procurement, delivery, maintenance, operation, monitoring and evaluation of infrastructure.

Introducing the IDMS bore immediate results that saw improvement in client ownership and oversight, packaging of infrastructure projects in a manner that reduces programme management complexities, reduction of costs, proactive management of risks and ensuring greater efficiency in service delivery.

The Province has also established various Infrastructure Governance Structures to enhance oversight of infrastructure delivery. Among these, are the Premier's Provincial Infrastructure Coordinating Committee (PPICC), Joint Operations Committee (JOC) and Project Managers Operations Management Meeting (PMOMM).

Since the adoption of the IDIP and IDMS, monthly reporting on infrastructure projects has improved steadily over the years, and reports are now tabled monthly to the various governance structures. These reports are used to monitor and evaluate performance and have since improved accountability, transparency, and audit outcomes. The Standard for Infrastructure Procurement and Delivery Management was developed in 2016 to assist the Government with procurement processes to support the implementation of IDMS.

Infrastructure constraints, such as electricity supply and inadequate road and rail network linkages are holding back new projects and economic developments. It is important to attract investment to stimulate growth in the Province and for that reason, the development of a Provincial investment strategy must be a priority in the foreseeable future.

MILESTONES AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Mpumalanga has invested billions of rands in social and economic infrastructure to address the injustices of the past. However, this is constrained by the low economic growth and the disparity in development between urban and rural areas. There is a growing demand for better roads, clinics, hospitals and other public amenities. Both private sector and foreign investment played a key role as social partners to stimulate growth and investment for identified catalytic projects. To name but a few, here below are highlights of these projects.

Table 16: Examples of major infrastructure projects for Mpumalanga since 1994

Project name	Agent	R bn	Project description
Kusile power station	Eskom	161	4 764MW coal plant came online in 2018
Coal freight line expansion	Transnet	18	Upgrade coal lines from Mpumalanga to the coast and electricity plants
Kingdom of Eswatini rail link (concept phase)	Transnet	19	New and upgraded rail to the Kingdom of Eswatini

Source: Socio-Economic Review and Outlook input for 2024/25

Gaining significantly from past events, Mpumalanga played host to group matches during the FIFA 2010 World Cup. The Province also benefited both economically and from an infrastructure development perspective, with the implementation of several development projects (both social and economic), which have had far-reaching outcomes on the lives of its people. FIFA 2010 Soccer World Cup resulted in the construction of the Mbombela Stadium between 2006 and 2010. The facility is multipurpose and has continued to be used for various sporting codes and other events.

A significant development landscape of the Province is the unlocking of accessibility through the continuous development and expansion of the primary (the Maputo Corridor) and secondary road network through the TRAC concession from 1994 to date. This has spurred local economic activities, such as movement of goods and services between the two countries and internally in the Mpumalanga Province. The landmark development of the Riverside Government complex at the dawn of democracy under the stewardship of the first Premier of the Mpumalanga Province, Dr Mathew Phosa has provided the Provincial Government with a unique African architectural design to house all the Departments under one roof.

The construction of the Injaka Dam between 1994 and 1999 as a presidential-led project in the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality could not have come at a better time for one of the most adversely affected areas with a lack of water in the Mpumalanga Province. The Dam was designed to have the capacity for inter-catchment water transfer to the Mbombela Local Municipality. The above developments and many significant infrastructure projects have since influenced demographic trends, and population movements and have increased the usage and infrastructure requirement in the Province.

ROAD NETWORK

The Mpumalanga road network is a core component of the Provincial infrastructure. Roads are special in that they precede and facilitate development in any geographical area, while other types of infrastructure generally follow development initiatives. No roads, no development. Poor road infrastructure is a barrier to socio-economic development, while well-planned and developed road infrastructure is a catalyst for growth, development and investment. The Province inherited a huge backlog in road infrastructure, and many roads were dilapidated and in neglected condition. Many communities lacked access to the main road network and were prohibited from full social integration with the remainder of South African society.

Investment in road infrastructure also played a pivotal role in freight movement and energy generation. Roads play a pivotal role in the effective movement of goods/services to the markets and influence the final price paid by the customer. Farmers and other service providers rely on good road networks to access consumers. The major development of coal haulage routes contributed towards sustainable power generation and economic growth in South Africa.

ROAD ASSET MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (RAMS)

In 2009, RAMS was introduced to aggregate the total road condition to support evidence-based planning across Mpumalanga. For the past four years, the results from the detailed assessment of the road network and subsequent analyses were documented to provide high-level decision support information regarding the Province's road asset management function. These reports highlight the challenges road authorities face while trying to balance the demands (for new and better roads) and resources (budget and capacity), as the general trend in the average condition of Provincial roads continues to be downward.

The condition of the paved roads in Mpumalanga Province is still not acceptable according to global standards where a maximum 10% proportion of the road network is in a "poor to very poor" condition and is regarded as "acceptable." The associated costs of roads in a "poor to extremely poor" condition are excessive.

Road users driving on these deteriorated roads pay extra for increased maintenance, time and fuel costs. Preventive maintenance, such as reseal treatment, cannot improve the functionality and performance of these roads and large capital expenditure must rehabilitate "very poor" roads to a "good" and functional condition.

Roads in a "poor" category typically require rehabilitation within five years. In some cases, preventive reseal treatments are still feasible provided the intervention is done soon and the roads do not deteriorate further. The opportunity to maintain these roads with cost-effective measures was a priority.

Much of the road network currently operates within the "fair" condition category, placing a huge demand on the reseal treatment need of the Province to prevent further deterioration and subsequent expensive future rehabilitation costs.

COAL HAULAGE NETWORK

Mpumalanga generates 75% of the country's electricity, hence the strategic importance of the coal haulage network. The Provincial coal haul network carries extensive volumes of traffic which places an extra burden on the maintenance and rehabilitation demands of the Province due to the increased heavy traffic loads of coal haul trucks. Consequently, the condition of these roads deteriorates faster than the rest of the road network.

As part of a Government's initiative to safeguard sustainable energy provision, special funding was provided to rehabilitate and maintain the coal haul road network. The Coal Haulage Road Rehabilitation Programme (CHRRP) commenced in April 2011. The percentage split between coal and non-coal haul roads is 30:70 for paved roads and 04:96 for unpaved roads.

Table 17: Network length according to coal haul usage

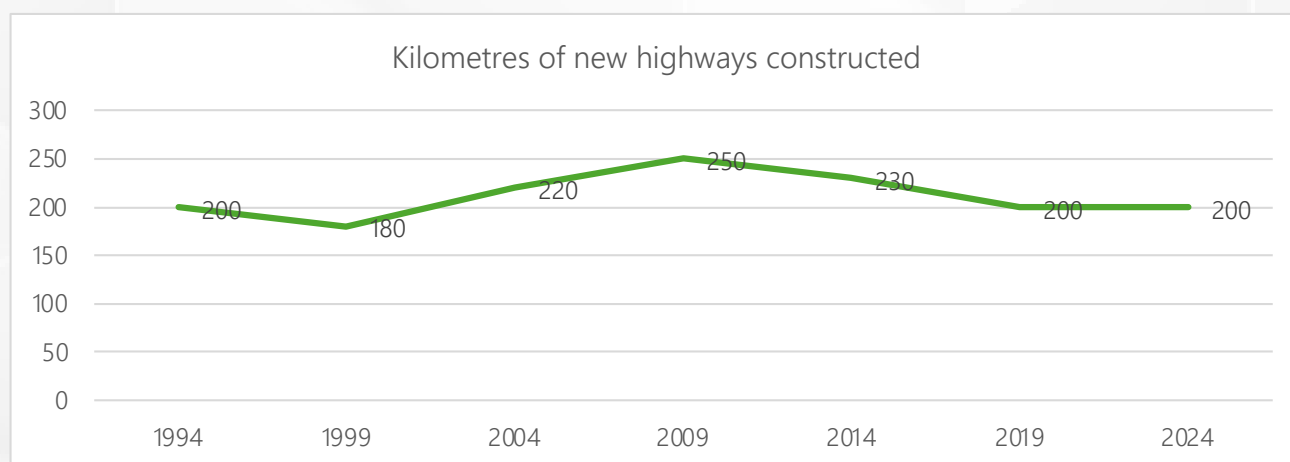
Paved/Unpaved Roads	Non-coal haul usage (km)	Coal haul usage (km)	Non-coal haul (%)	Coal haul (%)
Paved roads	3,836	1,657	70%	30%
Unpaved roads	8,005	339	96%	4%
Sub-total	11,841	1,996	86%	14%

Source: Mpumalanga DPWRT

There is a need for more aggressive road rehabilitation and maintenance programmes. This can be effected only with the allocation of the resources (especially more skilled personnel) operating in a policy and procedurally driven environment to derive the utmost value for every cent invested.

Between 1994 and 2004, significant investments were made in highway construction projects, including the expansion of major arterial routes, and the development of new highways to improve connectivity within Mpumalanga Province and link it to neighbouring regions.

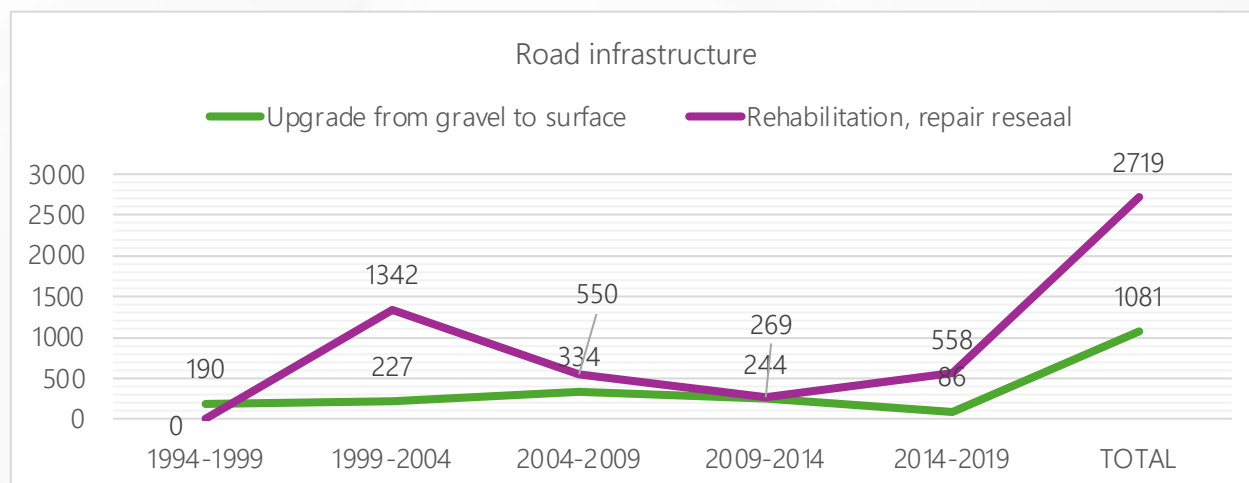
By 2004, approximately 500 kilometres of new highways were constructed, increasing to 1 000 kilometres by 2014, and reaching 1500 kilometres by 2024. Over the 30 years of democracy, Mpumalanga experienced an increase in kilometres of new highways that have been constructed from 200km in 1994 to another 180km from 1994 to 1999. From 1999 to 2004 another 220km were constructed. From 2004 to 2009 a further 250km were constructed. From 2009 to 2014 there was a slight decline in the km of highways constructed (230km). From 2014 to 2019, the number of km constructed dropped to 200km. Another 200 km were constructed between 2019 and 2024. Mpumalanga experienced over 30 years, more than 1 500km of highways being constructed to facilitate economic growth and transformation (Figure 27).

Figure 27: Kilometres of new highways constructed, 1994-2024

Source Socio-Economic Review and Outlook input for 2024/25

From 1994, over 30 years, Mpumalanga has rehabilitated and upgraded tarred and gravel roads across the Province. From 1994 to 1999, 190km road infrastructure was rehabilitated. This increased to 1 342km by 1999 to 2004 while upgrades of gravel roads increased to 227km. From 2004 to 2009 there was a decline in rehabilitation to 550km, while upgrades increased to 334km. Between 2009 and 2014, there was a further decline in rehabilitation to 260km and 244km for upgrades. Between 2014 and 2019 rehabilitation increased while upgrades declined to 96km. From 2019 to 2024 there has been an increase to 2 719km for rehabilitation and 1081 for upgrades (see Figure 28).

Figure 28: Mpumalanga road infrastructure, 1994-2019

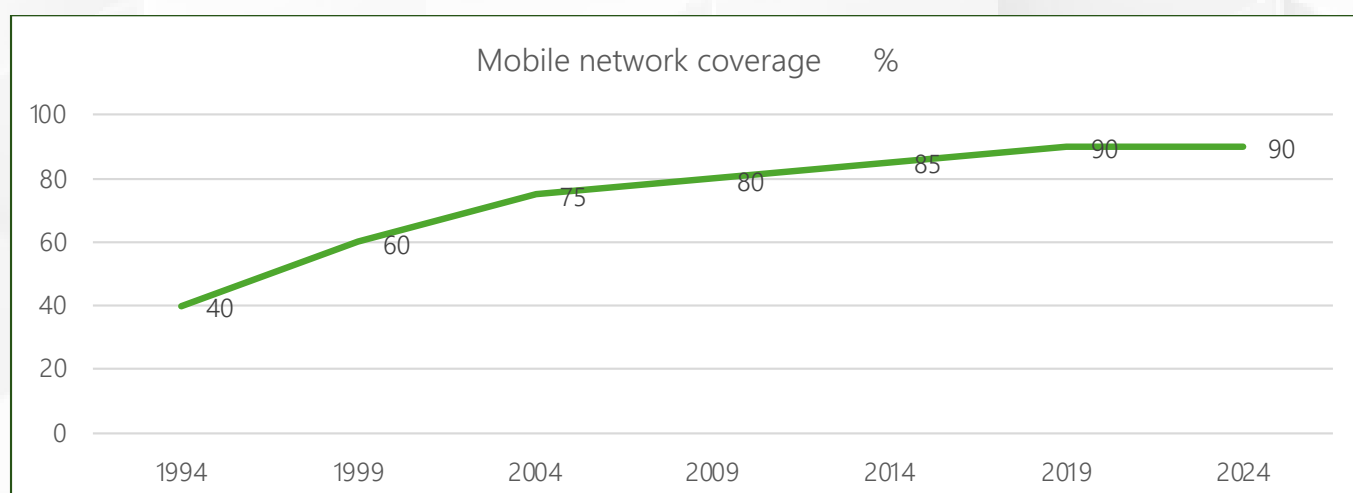


Source Socio-Economic Review and Outlook input for 2024/25

MOBILE NETWORK COVERAGE

Over 30 years of democracy, Mpumalanga experienced an increase in mobile network coverage from 40% in 1994 to 60% by 1999. This increased to 73% by 2004 and a further increase to 80% by 2009. The network coverage assisted in economic development and growth. This increased between 2009 and 2014 to 85%. Between 2014 and 2019 the network increased further to 90%. The network coverage has remained at 90% from 2019 to 2024 (see Figure 29).

Figure 29: Mpumalanga Mobile network, 1994-2024

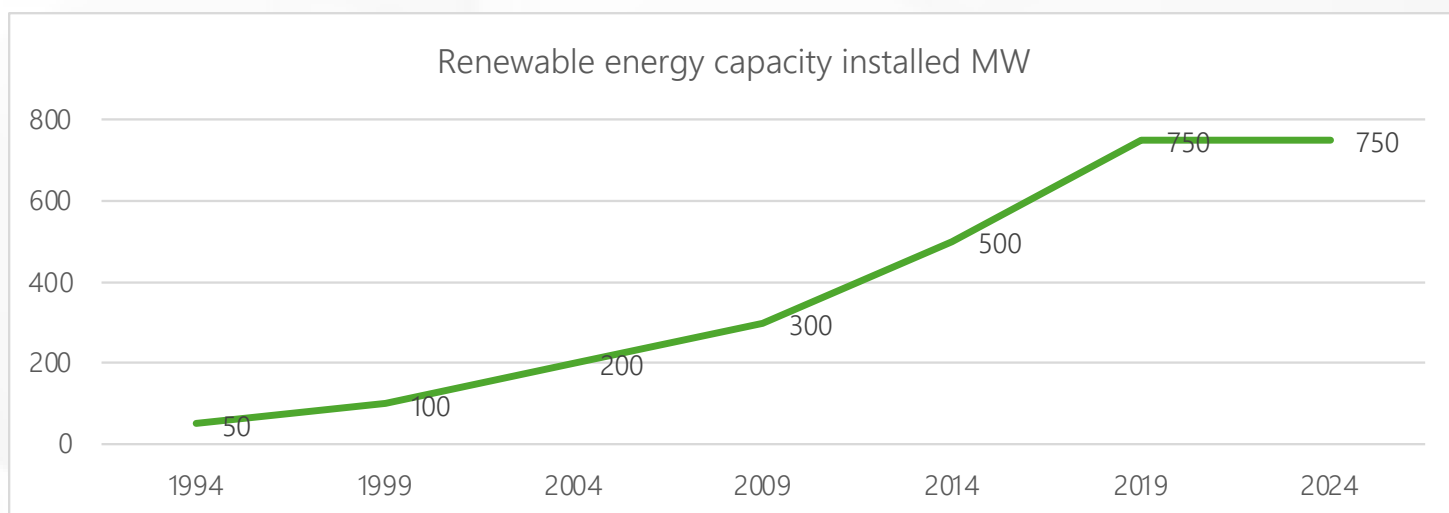


Source Socio-Economic Review and Outlook input for 2024/25

RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPACITY

Mpumalanga has experienced an increase in the number of renewable energy capacity installed (megawatts). From 50 MW in 1994 to 100MW in 1999, continuous installation has seen the MW increasing from 100MW to 200MW by 2004. It further increased to 300MW by 2009 and 500MW by 2014. From 2014 to 2019, a further 250MW was installed to a total of 750MW. From 2019 to 2024 the Province maintained the 750MW level (see Figure 30).

Figure 30: Renewable energy capacity installed MW, 1994-2024



Source Socio-Economic Review and Outlook input for 2024/25

Major policy developments in the South African energy landscape after 1994 include the White Paper on Energy Policy in 1998, which sought to introduce reforms to the electricity supply system, including the restructuring of Eskom. The Government introduced the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Programme (REIPPP) in 2011 and an Independent Power Producer (IPP) Office was established to implement it, as part of the IRP. A Gas Master Plan (2022) and the South African Renewable Energy Masterplan (2023) were also introduced to guide industry investment planning and coordinated implementation in the gas and renewable energy sectors. (National 30-year review report, 2023). About 11 coal-fired power stations are earmarked for repurposing into renewable energy by 2050.

Table 18: Eskom coal-fired power plants

Eskom Power Plant	Date of Commissioning	Capacity (MW)
Komati	1961	990
Camden	1967	1,561
Grootvlei	1969	1,180
Hendrina	1970	1,893
Arnot	1971	2,352
Kriel	1976	3,000
Tutuka	1985	3,654
Majuba	1996	4,110
Kendal	1988	4,116
Matla	1979	3,600
Duvha	1980	3,600
Lethabo	1985	3,708
Matimba	1987	3,990
Medupi	2015	4,764
Kusile	2017	2,400

Source: *National 30-year review report, 2023*

The improved infrastructure means a conducive environment for Mpumalanga's economic development and has a progressive impact on the Mpumalanga economic landscape for trade.

SUCCESS AND IMPACT

The coal haulage road repair Programme has begun to positively impact the Province's socio-economic life, through the contribution by all other stakeholders, in particular the National Department of Transport, Eskom and National Treasury.

The Programme has also opened opportunities and potential for Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) with coal mines and companies like Sasol. These companies have also contributed towards the road repairs Programme and maintenance of road sections traversing close to their operations, thus helping preserve the road infrastructure and creating job opportunities.

THE MAPUTO DEVELOPMENT CORRIDOR

The Maputo Development Corridor runs through the most highly industrialised and productive regions in Southern Africa, unlocking the regions of Mpumalanga, Gauteng, North-West, and Limpopo Provinces. The corridor comprises road, rail, border posts and terminal facilities.

The biggest share of the corridor runs through Mpumalanga, which contains the bulk of South Africa's coal mining output and 50% of the national coal reserves, which is exported via the Matola Coal Terminal in Matola Port, Maputo.

The corridor also links with production centres in Gert Sibande District, which contains a large bulk of South Africa's electricity-generating coal-fired power stations. The Nkangala District provides centres for coal, vanadium and stainless steel mining and production, and is also the principal areas of maize production in the Province's agricultural sector. The corridor provides primary access to the breathtakingly beautiful Highlands Meander, Escarpment and Lowveld in the Ehlanzeni District, a major national and international tourism destination.

OBSERVATIONS

The economic infrastructure policies have enabled the expansion and development of economic infrastructure in the Province over 30 years, enabling economic growth and facilitating trade within the Province, the country, and the SADC region. It enabled exports of goods and services with linkages within economic sectors.

Due to the capital intensiveness and multi-beneficial nature of road investment, it has played a pivotal role in alleviating the suffering of indigent communities and boosting local economies through community participation initiatives and enterprise involvement. Bearing this in mind, the importance and contribution of road infrastructure towards economic growth and development is many fold and cannot be underestimated.

The road maintenance projects presented opportunities for job creation and poverty alleviation through the Siyatentela Road Maintenance Programme. This is a typical poverty alleviation Programme creating sustainable jobs for the marginalised. The Programme targets mostly women from women-headed households employed to maintain rural roads. This Programme promotes the use of labour-intensive methods to do routine maintenance work.

In line with achieving EPWP imperatives, the Government continued with its road maintenance Programme by engaging local and emerging contractors in preventive maintenance - road grass cutting, patching, gravelling, and resealing. The Government introduced the Presidential Stimulus Fund to fund the implementation of infrastructure projects with high labour intensity to alleviate the unemployment effects resulting from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Rural Roads Programme is one such programme being implemented by the Province.

INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICES

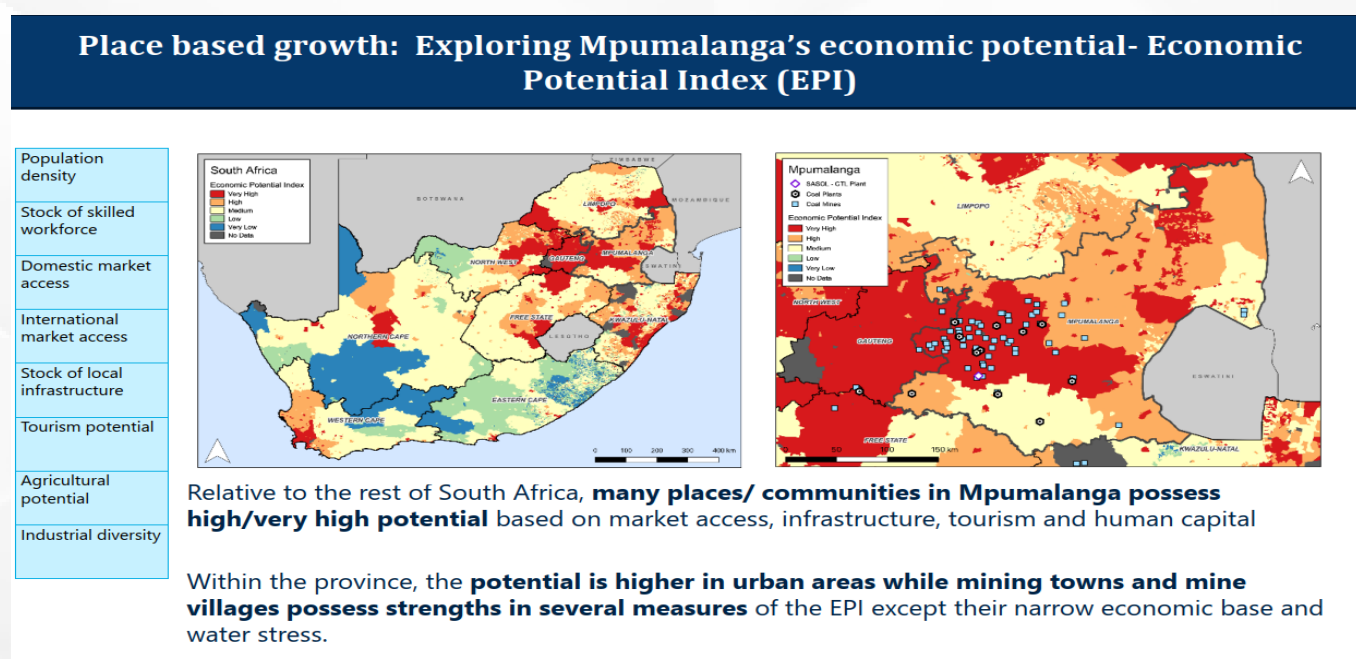
The East Asian states are an example of countries that adopted the concept of a developmental state cascaded to the Provinces or regions. The developmental state is meant to play the social engineering role (i.e. the role of restructuring the national economic system), for promoting long-term (industrial) development at the regional or Provincial level. The Republic of Korea and Japan are examples of countries that have been impressive in economic growth at the Provincial level. Other countries of the newly industrialised economies included the Thailand, Malaysia, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong (China Special Administrative Region) in East Asia.

Large investment in infrastructure, financed by both public and private resources, has been one of the most important characteristics of fast-growing Asian economies. Progress in telecommunications and ICT infrastructure enabled Asia to develop new services such as e-commerce, mobile payments, ride-sharing, and e-public services. It also increased opportunities for greater financial inclusion. Strong investment and policy reforms transformed Asia's infrastructure. The region's energy supply mix has diversified from mostly conventional sources, such as coal, oil, natural gas, and hydropower, to include rapidly increasing renewables such as wind and solar. Transportation was marked by a shift from rails to roads, rapid motorisation, and, more recently, more balanced development including new investment in railways and expansion of urban mass transit. Telecommunications and ICT developed rapidly as a source of economic development.

Government has positioned itself at the centre of socio-economic transformation by implementing progressive policies and programmes. Much progress has been achieved in transforming society and the country's positioning globally. Yet, much remains to be done to truly achieve fundamental transformation envisaged at the onset of democracy. The following broad sectoral observations can be highlighted:

- Importance of agriculture and agro-processing as a champion industry. High labour intensity industry. Importance of commercial farmers and opportunities for small-scale farming. The critical importance of the operationalisation of the MIFPM (Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market).
- The importance of a sustainable and appropriate energy mix for the country. The increasing importance of renewable energy. Opportunities pointed out at the Provincial Energy Summit, in cluding establishing Emalahleni as a Renewable Energy Hub.
- Renewable energy will fundamentally impact the coal mining industry. However, some good export opportunities still remain for the coal mining industry (especially in the short and medium term) according to research. Infrastructural challenges in terms of transport and ports will need to be addressed forthwith.
- Industrialisation is crucial, but remains a concern from an economic and employment growth point of view. The danger of jobless growth should be avoided. The importance of implementing the MIDP.
- The struggling construction industry and the critical importance of Provincial infrastructure projects and the reviewed Mpumalanga Infrastructure Masterplan to guide the Province. Job creation in Q2 of 2023 is good news.

Figure 31: Economic growth potential



Source: S&P Global – ReX, December 2024

Mpumalanga is well-positioned for economic growth due to the availability of abundant natural resources. This provides a high potential for access to markets, infrastructure, tourism and human capital. The Mpumalanga Province's economic potential index is from high to very high across the various Districts (Figure 31).

Table 19: Mpumalanga Economic Potential

High economic potential in most municipalities in Mpumalanga compared to rest of South Africa

Municipality		Agriculture		Tourism	Non-coal		Infrastructure			Agglomeration						
District	Local	Arable land	Grazing capacity	Protected area	Mine	Plant	Road density	Internet access	Water balance	Population density	Industry diversity	Human capital	Domestic MA	Port in SA	Port in neighbor	Airport in SA
Nkangala	Victor Khanye	1.4	17.2	43.3	15.8	4.1	14.3	26.5	4.2	26.0	7.8	22.0	3.8	72.5	12.4	9.3
	Emalahleni	16.0	17.4	12.8	16.1	1.9	21.8	17.2	26.0	8.9	5.2	11.0	3.6	73.2	8.6	34.8
	Steve Tshwete	15.4	20.1	13.5	23.4	2.2	37.3	18.6	34.7	14.0	3.7	7.9	3.4	72.2	7.0	52.3
	Thembisile	35.4	70.9	30.0	11.1	20.4	16.2	21.8	36.1	8.1	8.4	22.0	6.4	76.7	19.0	56.7
	Emakhazeni	51.3	68.3	11.3	16.3	4.5	37.9	20.8	99.1	32.4	11.8	19.1	10.2	73.9	4.3	40.3
	Dr JS Moroka	50.1	50.1	39.1	12.6	27.5	47.9	28.1	35.0	22.1	22.3	20.6	13.7	77.5	21.3	71.7
Gert Sibande	Govan Mbeki	23.8	23.3	57.1	31.1	17.0	13.9	17.2	46.8	9.3	4.0	11.8	2.7	71.8	16.7	44.1
	Muskaligwa	14.1	71.7	12.5	32.3	19.2	22.4	21.6	10.4	22.9	0.5	17.8	6.8	69.2	9.9	81.5
	Dipaleseng	56.1	35.6	36.3	22.7	13.5	51.4	25.9	70.7	18.6	6.6	27.3	11.6	69.9	25.4	28.0
	Lekwa	17.5	33.4	83.4	41.6	30.4	29.5	18.8	88.1	21.6	5.2	20.5	5.9	70.3	23.6	75.5
	Mkhondo	22.1	45.4	50.0	45.0	41.2	24.9	30.5	30.4	34.3	1.4	31.4	5.5	64.3	8.5	96.5
	Albert Luthuli	38.3	50.9	41.1	19.6	26.1	39.1	32.5	72.6	29.6	3.8	21.2	11.7	70.7	5.1	64.7
	Pixley Ka Seme	62.5	78.1	44.4	45.8	36.8	25.6	27.7	35.2	33.6	6.3	30.3	6.0	67.1	19.9	94.9
Ehlanzeni	Mbombela	39.6	49.6	16.0	11.0	5.6	31.9	21.1	83.6	14.3	12.1	10.8	7.4	77.3	1.5	9.8
	Thaba Chweu	51.9	39.1	14.6	15.5	3.8	19.4	25.8	28.7	27.5	13.2	15.2	9.7	78.8	4.0	28.8
	Bushbuckridge	34.1	68.4	26.2	29.3	15.5	40.6	31.7	11.0	18.4	36.1	21.0	17.6	83.0	3.3	16.4
	Nkomazi	31.3	66.5	34.7	4.7	22.2	32.3	29.9	64.5	16.4	20.3	23.8	10.3	74.6	0.5	47.2

Bottom 20% 2nd quintile 3rd quintile 4th quintile Top 20%

Note: EPI = Economic Potential Index. Int'l = International. MA = Market access. SA = South Africa.

Source: S&P Global – ReX, December 2024

The Economic Performance Index (EPI): is an Intuitive Indicator for Assessing a Country's or Region's Economic Performance Dynamics in an Historical Perspective. The EPI for Mpumalanga shows that the Province has economic performance potential across the three District Municipalities with Agriculture, having an economic potential ranked between quintiles 3 and 4 and falling within the top 20% (Table 19). That is followed by tourism, mining and infrastructure. All three Districts and their local municipalities have a high potential for economic growth.

Export-processing zones (EPZs) have been created in many parts of East Asia, particularly in the second-tier NIEs, where foreign firms have been granted various preferential treatments. In the case of Singapore among the first-tier NIEs, its entirety has been a state-directed export-oriented economy. The situation led to the rise of numerous export-oriented enclaves. In China, the role of the State in industrialisation has been historically larger than in Japan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Mpumalanga Province must transform its infrastructure development by learning from the Asian Tigers how they developed their short, medium, and long-term plans.
2. The Province must continuously adopt new technologies, promote innovation, and develop a diverse cadre of educated and skilled labour force.
3. Mpumalanga must invest in and manage the expansion of digital infrastructure.

4. The Province must scale up efforts to protect the environment and act now for climate change mitigation and adaptation. It must -
 - (i) substantially invest in renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable public transport, and climate- resilient infrastructure
 - (ii) attract private sector investment for sustainable infrastructure
 - (iii) further strengthen framework legislation, safeguard policies and air and water quality standards
 - (iv) ensure prices reflect environmental costs and climate change externalities
 - (v) build environmental governance capacity; and
 - (vi) intensify national and regional cooperation on environmental issues
5. Building on what has been achieved, greater cooperation is needed in conserving and managing shared natural resources.
6. Use the MIMP to guide future infrastructure development and investment.
7. Mpumalanga must aspire to become a high-income economy. Achieving this necessitates a rethinking of the macro-economic growth policy and strategy, along with a more concerted focus on strengthening the capacity to implement economic growth policy. For the immediate period, there is a strong case to continue with the focus on economic recovery and structural reforms to unlock potential growth. This includes a focus on resolving the immediate constraints to potential growth: minerals-dominated exports, economic concentration, inefficiencies in network industries, inadequate levels of technological innovation and skills, low manufacturing export competitiveness, energy and water shortages, delays in infrastructure development, and vulnerability to global shocks.
8. Remove the most pressing constraints on growth, investment, and job creation, including those constraints on energy generation and distribution, urban planning, etc. Amending the relevant laws and regulations to ensure sensitivity to the needs of small businesses. Attract business services, and build on the advantage of the Province's telecommunications, banking and retail firms.
9. Prioritise catalytic MERRP projects that generate substantial employment opportunities, particularly targeting youth employment, women, and people with disabilities.
10. Empowerment of SMMEs and the informal sector for job creation: Support must be offered to the SMME sector, including the informal economy, through a coordinated and integrated approach.
11. Accelerate industrialisation through the MIDP and strategic zones: Fast-track industrialisation by leveraging the MIDP and focusing on strategic zones like the Nkomazi Special Economic Zone and Industrial Technology Parks.
12. Enhancing skills development for labour market relevance: Prioritise skills development initiatives that align with the needs of the Provincial economy. Conducting skills surveys in the Province is crucial. The role of the Department of Education with their HRDS & MISH is important to ensure visibility and effectiveness.
13. Rapid advancement of green economy initiatives: Accelerate the implementation of green economy initiatives, projects, and investments. Effective guidance from an economic policy, and planning perspective is vital to ensure an inclusive transition. The importance of the role of the Mpumalanga Green Cluster Agency should be acknowledged.
14. Strengthening investment and export promotion: The important role of MEGA in line with the recommendations outlined in the Provincial Trade & Investment Strategy cannot be over-emphasized.

CHAPTER *[6]*

HUMAN CAPITAL, INNOVATION AND ACHIEVING COMPETITIVENESS



Over the past 30 years, Mpumalanga Province has made significant strides in advancing the previously disadvantaged, developing its human capital, fostering innovation and striving to achieve competitiveness in various sectors. This chapter of the report aims to provide a comprehensive review of the Province's progress in dealing with the challenge of making education accessible to all, developing human capital and improving levels of innovation. This chapter focuses on Provincial aspirations envisaged in different policy frameworks, education, the Human Development Index, human capital development, affirmative action and employment equity as well as Mpumalanga's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product as part of its competitiveness nationally.

NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ASPIRATIONS

Education is an important indicator of development and nation building as it impacts on a variety of other social indicators. The RDP envisaged that education shall be available to all from cradle to grave. The RDP sees education as an enabler for human capabilities, abilities, knowledge and know-how. The NDP 2030 further sought to make educational objectives more concrete. The NDP 2030 sought to improve the quality of education, skills, development, and innovation. To achieve this objective, the NDP 2030 envisaged that between 80-90% of learners should complete 12 years of schooling and vocational education with at least 80% passing exit exams. Furthermore, Throughput rate is envisaged to be 80% by 2030 (National Planning Commission, 2010).

To develop human capital, improve innovation and achieve competitiveness, the Province has the following aspirations:

- A minimum of two years access to early childhood development,
- Increased funding to improve universal access to ECD Centres, nutrition, and care programmes,
- Qualified, professional, competent and committed teaching, management and public service support for schools to realise improved performance in literacy, maths and science,
- 90% of learners in grades 3, 6 and 9 must achieve 50% or more in national assessments,
- 90% of learners must complete 12 years of schooling,
- Technical support should be afforded to underperforming schools and good performance be recognised,
- School infrastructure need to be given attention,
- Improve the quality and scope of colleges, community education and training centres and increased enrolments
- Improve capacity of FET's to become preferred institutions with 80% throughput rate, and
- Link further education and training to workplaces and employment opportunities (MP V2030)

LEGISLATION, KEY POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

Over the past thirty years, a comprehensive legislative and policy framework has been established to provide strategic direction for transforming the Basic Education, PSET, and innovation systems. This framework addresses the demands for justice, equity, and redress. A key focus of the new education policy frameworks was to accelerate participation and improve performance while responding to changing social and economic needs. These principles informed governance and funding frameworks, policies, and strategies to orient public investment and offer more learning opportunities to more citizens.

The first 10 to 15 years were focused on undoing the apartheid systems, structures and cultures and setting up new governance arrangements that reflected democratic principles. Putting these governance arrangements into place took up a tremendous amount of effort. Since the 2000s, the monitoring and evaluation of the effects of the new policies have shown that 'progressive policies do not guarantee successful implementation'. In addition to enacting policy, greater attention needs to be paid to the implementation of policy and the resources available for its implementation. In addition, policy coordination to promote development at a programme level is more complex than envisioned. A joined-up approach is difficult to negotiate in practice (Naidoo, 2013). Legislative analysis shows 'institutional sprawl' in the PSET regulatory space, referring to the numerous authorities, councils, bodies, etc., that are not directly involved in skilling but have advisory functions and/or functions related to funding, governance, planning, quality assurance, etc. This is both expensive and affects service delivery because of the many hoops one must go through to get things done (National 30-year review report, 2023).

MILESTONES AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Education

This section of the report focuses on the percentage of people in Mpumalanga Province who have had the opportunity to attend ECD facilities, school, and tertiary education in relation to the national norm and the performance of the other eight Provinces in South Africa.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

In censuses conducted in South Africa since the dawn of democracy in 1994, attention was given to the age group between 5 and 24 years. To correct the anomaly, the 2022 census has provided some light regarding attendance at early childhood centres in the Province. ECD attendance include the age group of 0 to 4 years. In 2022, ECD attendance rate was 57.4%. Of the 57,4%, 31.6% (168 658) attended crèche, 6,9% (36 657) attended pre-school, 10,9% (58 224) were with a day care mother or Gogo, 7,3% (38 871) were either at home or at a community playground. Of concern is the 42,6% (227 387) children who are not attending any form of ECD establishment.

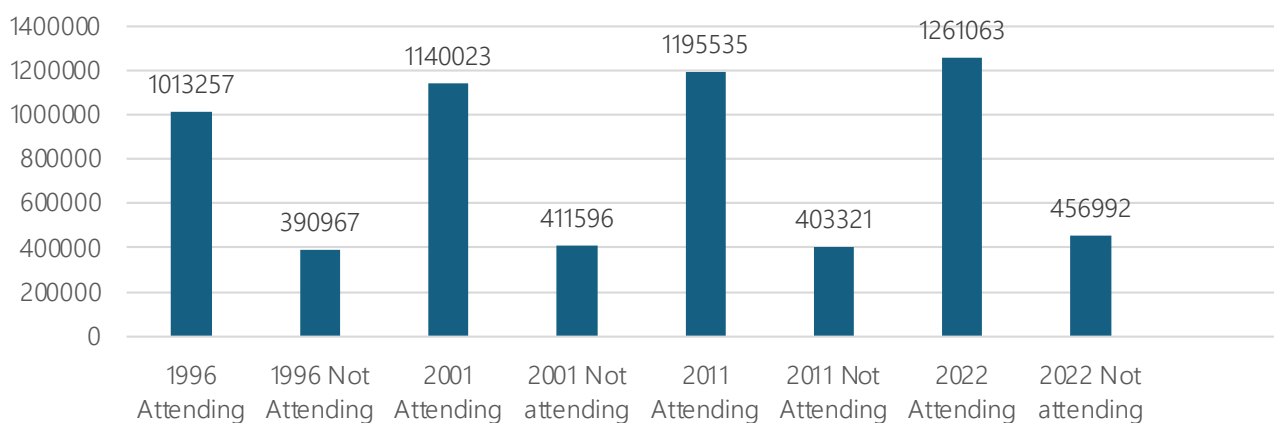
Mpumalanga's ECD attendance rate was lower than the national rate of 60.2% in 2022 and the fifth lowest among the Provinces. ECD centres are important as they provide children with the foundation they need to perform better at primary school level. In 2022, the attendance rate for people aged between 5 years and 24 years was 73.4%. This rate of attendance for Mpumalanga was the same as that of South Africa and was the fifth highest among Provinces.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE BETWEEN AGES 5 AND 24

Time series data contained in the 1996, 2001, 2011, and 2022 census publications suggest that as per Figure 32, Mpumalanga Province has witnessed a minimal increase of people between 5 and 24 attending educational institutions. Attendance has moved slightly from 72,2% in 1996 to 73% in 2022. Data about those who are not attending has dropped from 27,8% in 1996 to 25,2% in 2011 before a 1% increase was witnessed in 2022. Mpumalanga school attendance between the ages of 5 to 24 is either above average or on par with national average which is between 70% and 73,4%. While the comparison with the national average may lead to complacency, it is important to note that 456 992 people between the ages of 5-24 are not attending school and not employed for those over 15 years old. This is a concern. This rate of none-attendance reflects on the failure of parental responsibilities and the state in giving children and young adults a good foundation in life. Efforts should be made to reduce the percentage of non-attending children and young adults drastically in the immediate future.

The South African Schools Act, 1996 made schooling compulsory for children between 7 and 15 years. Compelling children between 7 and 15 years to be at school leaves a gap for children between 0 and 6 to be home while they are missing out on important developmental milestones in education. This provision is also against the spirit of the RDP 1994 which envisaged that education should be from cradle to grave. This is an area that the Department of Basic Education may have to look at and improve on.

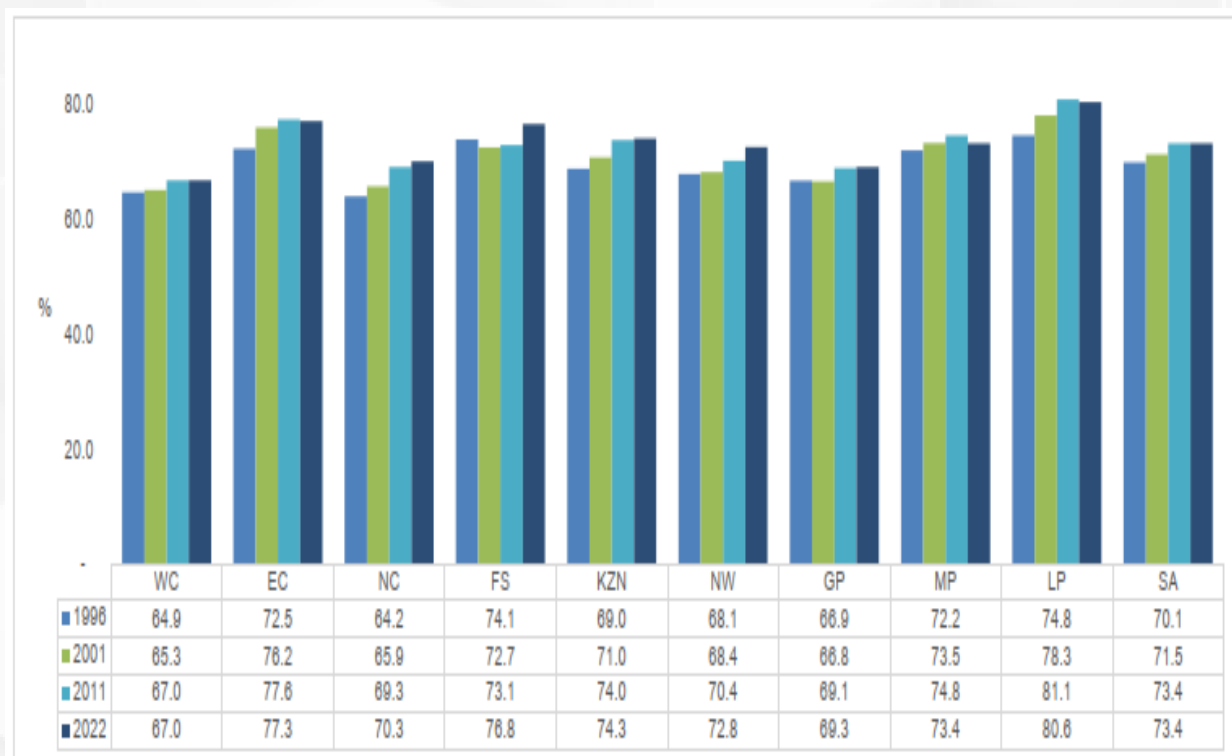
Figure 32: 5-24 year old attending educational institutions, 1996-2022



Source: STATS SA, Census 2022

Figure 33 below breaks down the figures into percentages. In 1996, 72.2% of people between the ages of 5 and 24 were attending school in Mpumalanga. The figures improved slightly in 2001 to 73.5% and further to 74.8% then ending with a decline to 73.4%. Of importance is that Mpumalanga has consistently performed above the national average and the Western Cape and Gauteng Provinces as the most developed Provinces.

Figure 33: Percentage distribution of population aged 5–24 years by attendance at an educational institution and Province, Census 1996–2022



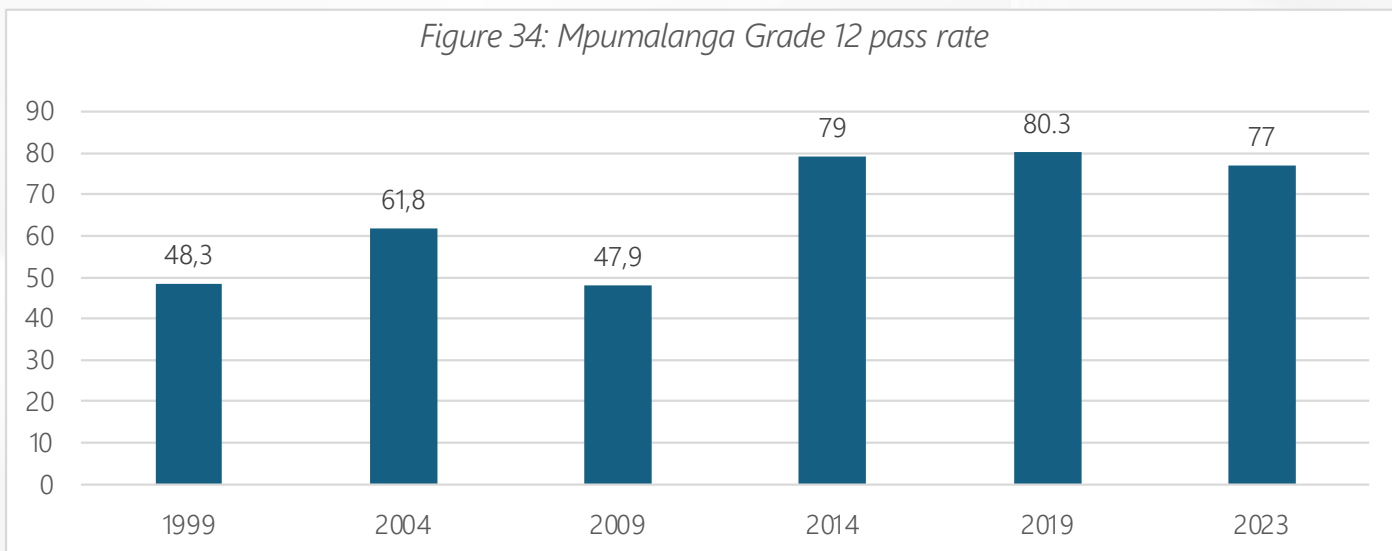
Source: STATS SA, Census 2022

GRADE 12 PERFORMANCE

Challenges experienced at ECD and primary school level are often evident at secondary school level and manifest prominently in grade 12 results. Mpumalanga grade 12 results were 48,3% during the third administration's term in 2009. Subsequently, Mpumalanga saw a significant improvement in grade 12 results. The Province recorded 61.8% pass rate in 2010. This percentage was below the recorded 70.7% national average. These results were clouded by controversy as 38 162 learners' results were withheld on suspicion of irregularities.

The results were again marred by controversy as there were allegations of stealing and selling of question papers. The Mpumalanga Province attained 79.0% pass rate in 2014 and subsequently reaching its peak of 80,3% in 2019. The release of the 2023 results have shown a decline of 3.3 percent. It is important to note that Mpumalanga grade 12 results have consistently been above 70% between 2014 and 2023. This is a commendable achievement compared to the results attained in 1999. These results are an indication that some of the challenges relating to grade 12 examination highlighted in this section of the report have been attended to with some success. What lies ahead for the Province is to ensure that there is no regression with the publication of future results.

Figure 34: Mpumalanga Grade 12 pass rate

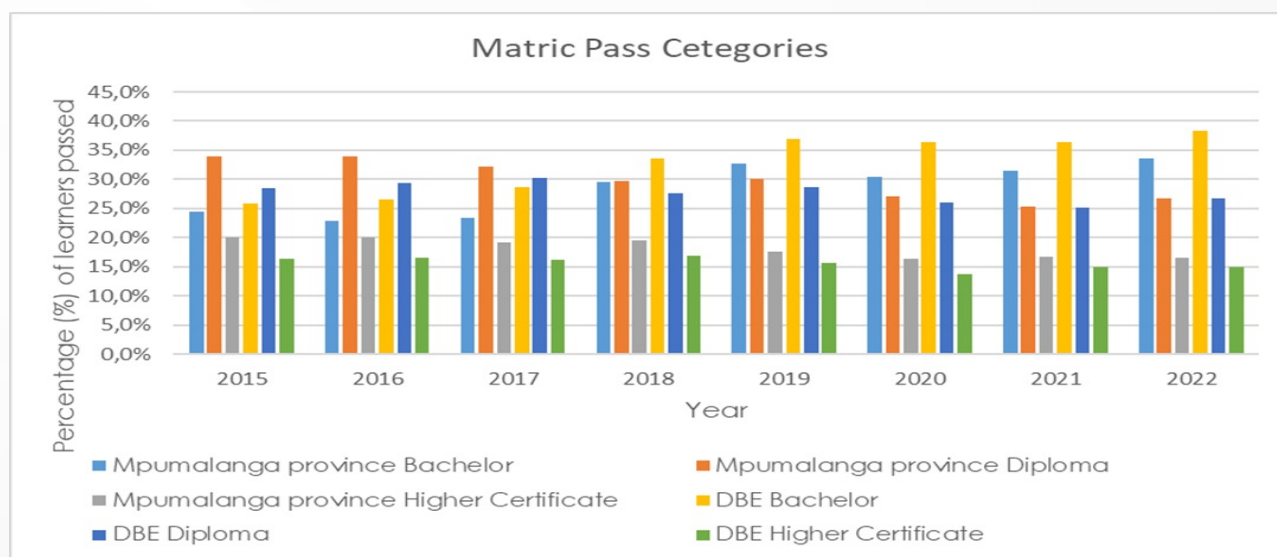


Source: Motshega, 2011

MATRIC PASS CATEGORIES

Having presented the overall Mpumalanga pass rates, attention is drawn to the disaggregation of grade 12 results in 2016 and 2023 to highlight progress made in a period of eight years. In 2016, 54 251 learners wrote grade 12 examination. 12 420 (22,9%) attained a bachelor pass, 18 447 (34%) attained a Diploma pass, 10 918 (20,1%) got a higher certificate pass and 16 (0,03%) attained NSC pass. Overall, 41 801(77,1%) learners passed in 2016. This overall pass rate was higher than the national average which was 72,5% in the same year. Eight years later in 2023, the number of learners increased to 65 534. Within this cohort, 21 819 (33.3%) passed with bachelors, 17 412 (26,6%) attained a diploma pass, 11 196 (17,1%) attained a higher certificate pass and two candidates attained NSC pass. The total number of learners who passed in 2023 was 50 429 (79,95). In 2023, the Province was below the national average of 82,9% (Mpumalanga Department of Education, 2024). Figure 35 further provides a clearer picture regarding different categories of matric pass rates. Between 2019 and 2023, the Mpumalanga Province has consistently performed below the national average. It is important to note that despite the decline in the overall pass rate, there was an improvement in the number of bachelor passes from 22,9% in 2016 to 33,3%.

Figure 35: Matric Pass Categories, 2015-2022



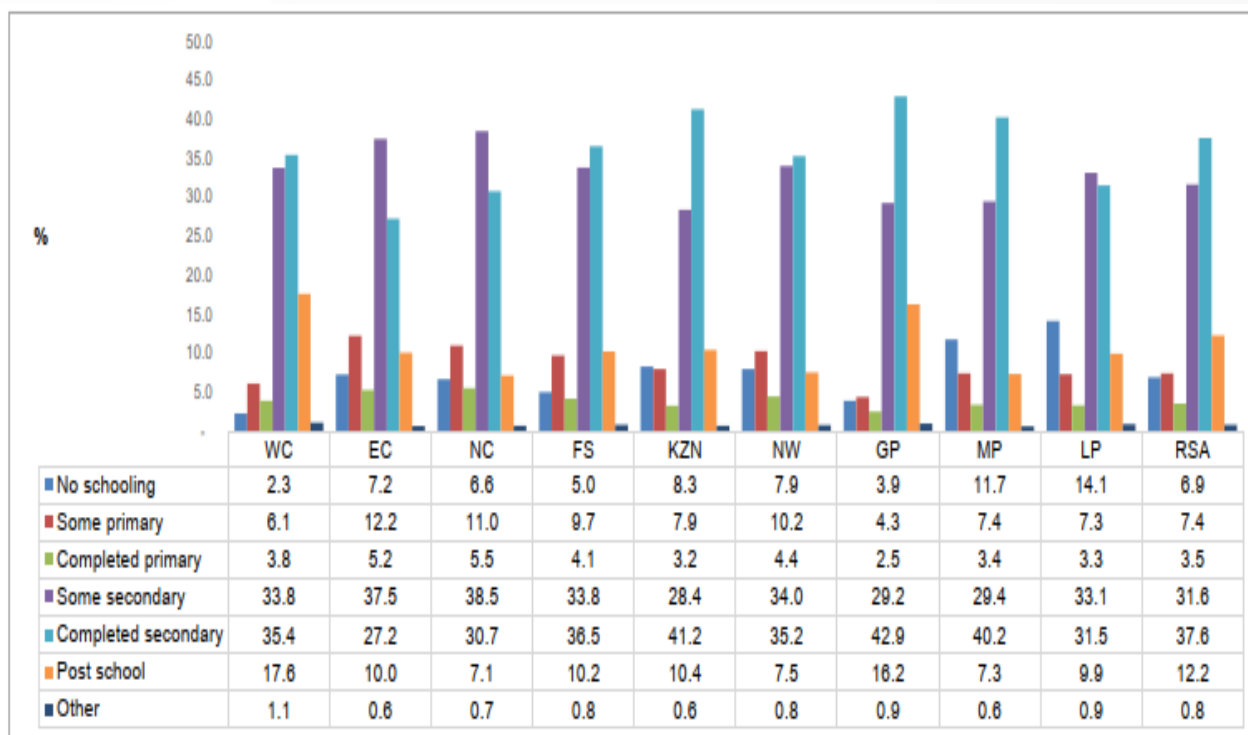
Source: Mpumalanga DoE, 2023

PERSONS AGED 20 YEARS AND OLDER BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

According to the General Household Survey (GHS) 2022, 88.7% of children attending public schools in Mpumalanga benefitted from the school nutrition Programme in 2022. This was higher than the national average (78.0%) and Mpumalanga was ranked second highest among the nine Provinces. The share of public school learners benefitting from this Programme in Mpumalanga increased to 86.4% in 2014.

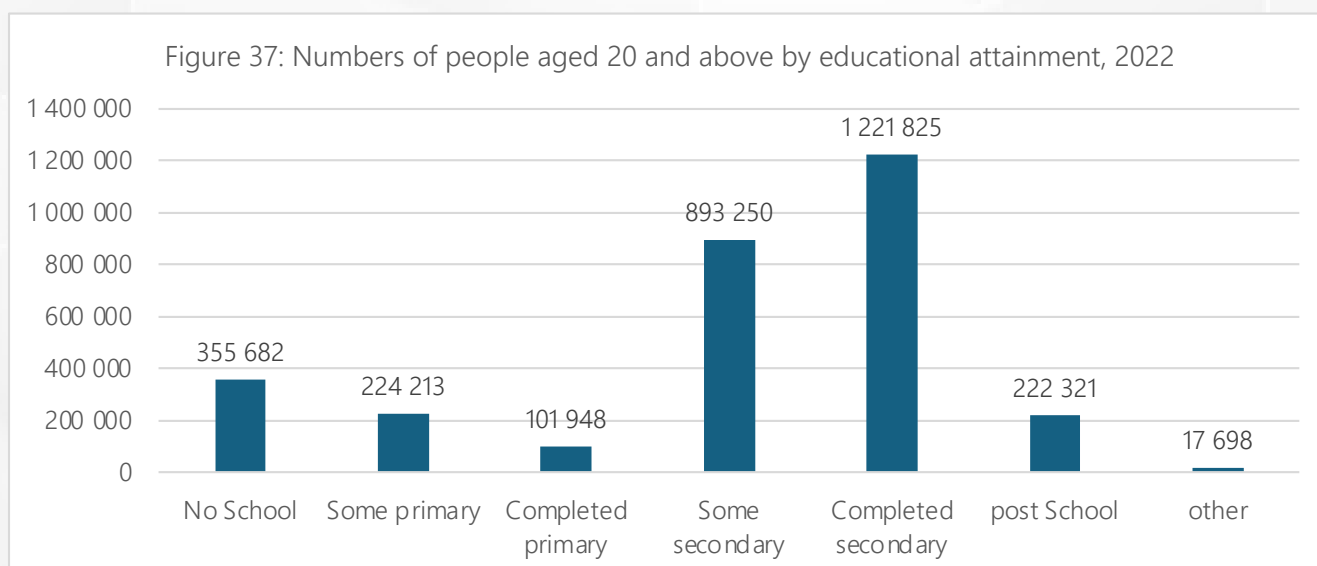
Comparing Mpumalanga's highest level of schooling in 2022 with the national figures, it is evident that there is less of Mpumalanga's population, over the age of 20 years, at the higher levels of education than what is the situation nationally. For example, 12.2% of the people who are 20 years and older in South Africa have completed a post school qualification compared to 7.3% in Mpumalanga. On the other end of the spectrum, there is a slightly larger concentration of Mpumalanga's population, over the age of 20 years, at the lower levels of education than nationally. It is further evident when comparing Provinces, that Mpumalanga (11.7%) registered the second highest (worst) share of people 20 years and older with no schooling. It was 4.8 percentage points higher/worse than the national share of 6.9% in 2022. Mpumalanga (40.2%) recorded the seventh lowest share of people 20 years and older with matric among the nine Provinces, higher than the national share of 37.6%.

Figure 36: Percentage distribution for persons aged 20 years and older by educational attainment and Province, Census 2022



Source: STATS SA, Census 2022

The establishment of the University of Mpumalanga in 2014 was a major boost to the quality of life and nation building in Mpumalanga. Although the impact of the new university human resource development, education and training cannot be assessed for purposes of this report as it falls under the National Department of Higher Education and Training, its potential to improve Mpumalanga Province cannot be ignored.



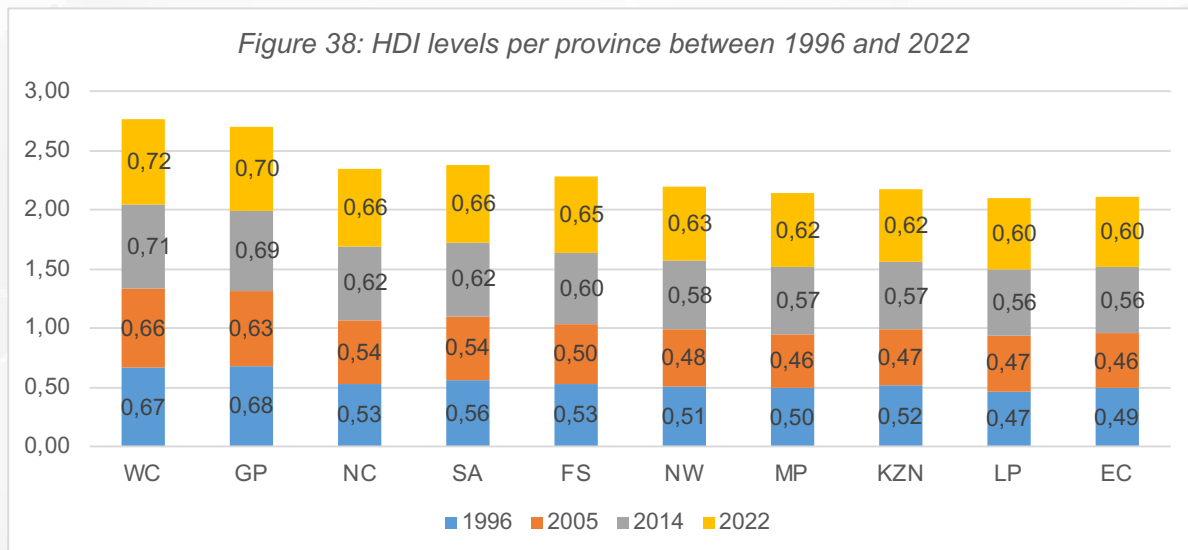
The number and percentage of people with no schooling in Mpumalanga is concerning. The percentage of people who did not attend school is 11,7% while the national average is 6,9%. The percentage is 4,8% higher than the national average.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

The Human Development Index (HDI) is one way in which advancements in human development can be measured. HDI can be described as a composite, relative index that tries to quantify the extent of human development of a community hence its use for purposes of assessing the Mpumalanga Province. It is based on measures of life expectancy, literacy and income. According to the United Nations, the HDI is considered high when it is 0.8 and higher, medium when it ranges between 0.5 to 0.8 and an index value of 0.5 and lower, is considered as a low rating.

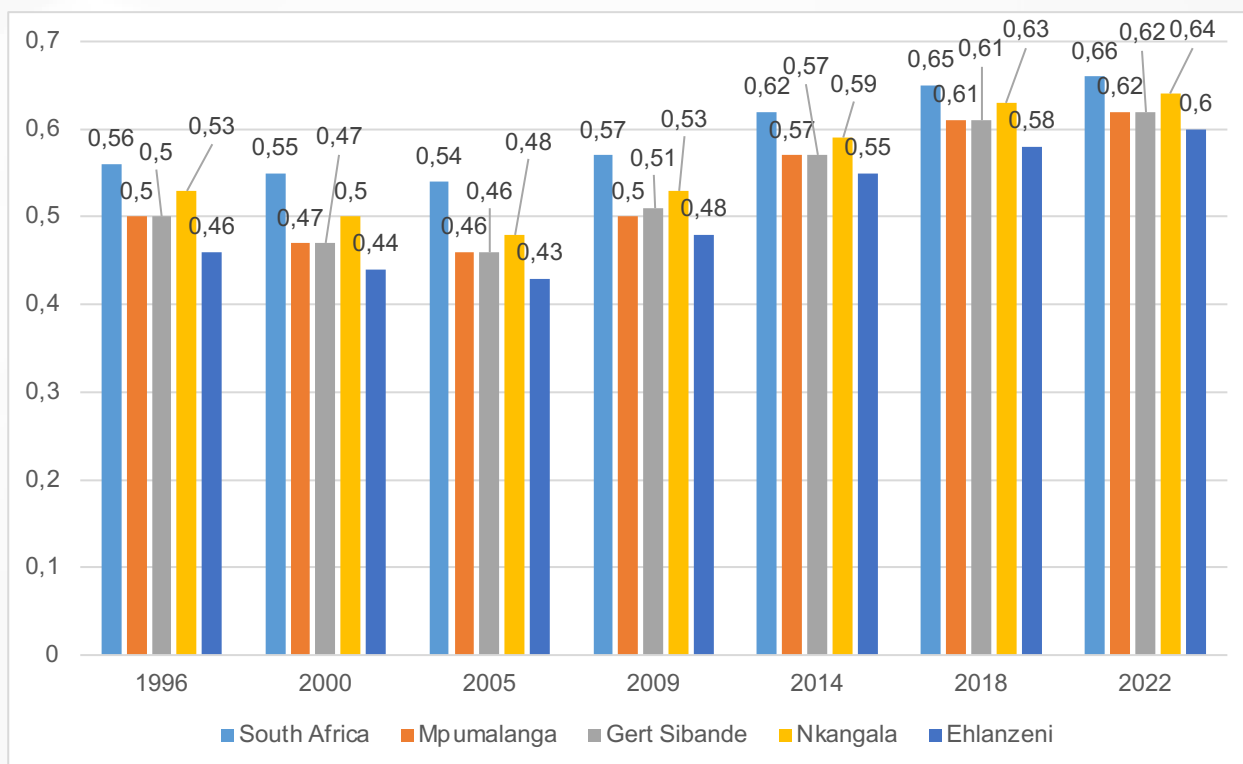
From the comparison of different Provinces in South Africa, it is clear from the depiction in Figure 38 that Western Cape registered the highest HDI between 1996 and 2022. Mpumalanga's HDI level improved over the 30-year period from 0.50 in 1996 to 0.62 in 2022. Despite improving between 1996 and 2022, it was still lower than the national level of 0.66 in 2022. Mpumalanga recorded the joint third lowest/joint sixth highest HDI level among the nine Provinces in 2022 with Limpopo and Eastern Cape sharing the lowest levels. Between the three districts in Mpumalanga, Nkangala recorded the highest HDI level of 0.64 in 2022 and Ehlanzeni registered the lowest HDI at 0.60 (See Figure 39).

When the HDI levels of the various population groups in Mpumalanga are analysed, it is evident that the White population recorded the highest HDI level of 0.90 in 2022. Asians and Coloureds followed with HDI levels of 0.78 and 0.70, respectively. The Black African population registered the lowest HDI level of 0.58 (Figure 40), however, the largest HDI improvement over the 30-year period was registered in this population group. Whilst the HDI level of Black Africans and Whites improved between 2018 and 2022, the HDI level of Asians and Coloureds remained unchanged.



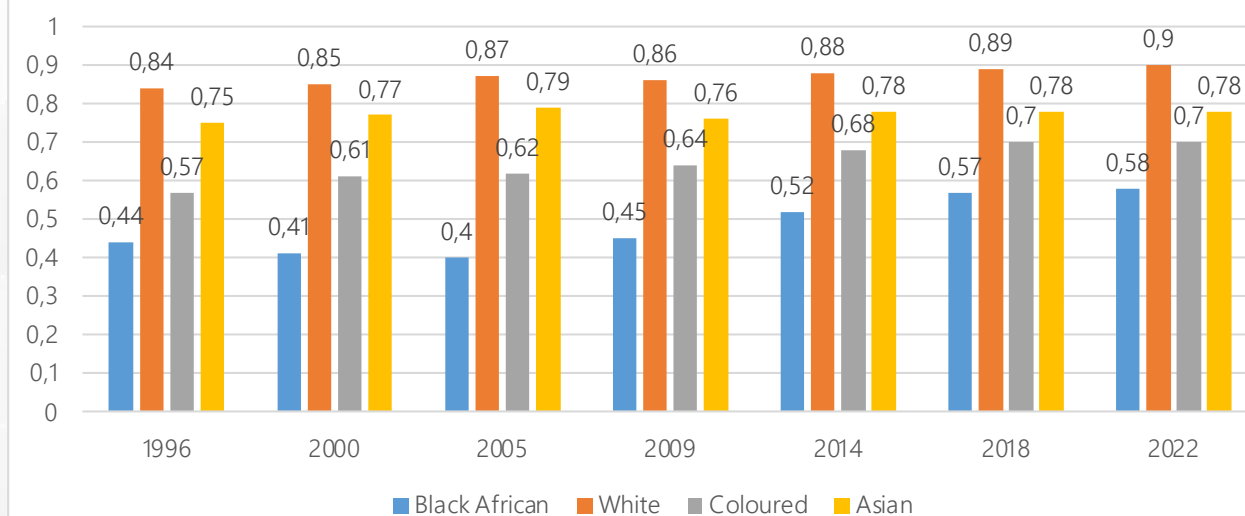
Source: S&P Global-Regional Explorer, December 2023

Figure 39: HDI levels for South Africa, Mpumalanga & districts, 1996-2022



Source: S&P Global-Regional Explorer, December 2023

Figure 40: HDI level by population group in Mpumalanga, 1996-2022



Source: S&P Global-Regional Explorer, December 2023

HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

The majority of the population of Mpumalanga is the youth which confirms that the Province has a sizable labour pool. A major challenge is the skills factor. The Province has undertaken a drive to skill this pool through reviving the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges and reform their curriculum to respond to the needs of the economy. The Mpumalanga Province has worked closely with the private sector in skilling this pool. Some of the measures employed include utilising industry's facilities, as such, offers were made by industry during consultation processes (sugar and mining industries availed facilities to collaborate with Government).

The following are some of the sector specific Human Resources Development (HRD) opportunities identified in the Province, namely, agro-processing, agro-products, infrastructure development, wood products, tourism, small medium and micro enterprises (SMME), arts and crafts, services (e.g., wholesale, banking, insurance, security, repair and maintenance, etc.), Stainless steel, chemical and chemical products, water reclamation, environmental rehabilitation, animal /crop science and further opportunities include:

- The availability of Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA) funding to drive skills development in the Province e.g. through learnerships. Both the funding for capacity building and the required legislative framework exist;
- Introduction of a university in the Province; and
- Implementation of the HRD strategy to create the basis for coordinated, integrated and sustainable HRD planning in the Province.
- Deployment to rural areas for pre-determined professions upon completion of training.

The Mpumalanga Province will position itself to benefit from these opportunities by implementing key skills development Programmes around these areas. The HRD strategy considers these strategic demands and shapes the HRD model that best suits these demands. In addition, the National Skills Fund, (NSF), National Research Foundation (NRF), and SETA project funding initiatives are human resource development funding windows that have been identified and require equal levels of coherence, focus and Provincial coordination to maximise the gains for the Province. The Provincial human resource strategy defines the scope for skills development.

In terms of human capital development, Mpumalanga Province has focused on enhancing education and skills training initiatives to empower its workforce. Over the past three decades, the Province has invested in improving access to quality education, vocational training, and lifelong learning opportunities for its residents. As a result, there has been a noticeable increase in the level of education and skills among the population, leading to a more qualified and competitive labour force.

The National School of Government (NSG) is an important ally in human capital development. The NSG delivers an array of short learning Programmes which are suited to address the skills of the Mpumalanga Province. In 2016, the NSG conducted a needs analysis in the Department of Health in Mpumalanga's procurement division. The study revealed that 57% of surveyed were male and 43% were female. None of the respondents had doctorate degree while 1,7% of participants in the study had masters degree. 5% of the respondents had an honours degree, 10% were in possession of a postgraduate diploma, 25% had a bachelor degree, 31,7% had a diploma while 6,7 had a matric.

The skills analysis report further revealed the Department needed support in the following areas:

- E-learning 43,3%
- Coaching 46,7%
- Mentorship 56,7%
- Training 78.3%

While the report cited above focused on one Department, it gives an indication of what the Province may need.

THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND

The UNFPA argue that a country, and by implication a Province such as Mpumalanga will reap the demographic dividend when there is an increase in the number of youth and a decline in fertility rates. It is argued that there will be a boost in economic productivity when the number of people in the workforce increases relative to the number of dependents. The demographic dividend can also be explained as the economic growth potential resulting from shifts in population structure. Put differently, when a share of the working age population between 15 and 64 is more than the non-working population of below 15 and above 65 in a Province such as Mpumalanga, it can reap the demographic dividend (United Nations Population Fund, nd).

In South Africa, fertility rates have fallen from 6,4 births in the 1950 to 2, 5 births in 2005 and beyond (Oosthuizen, 2016). Mpumalanga's average fertility rate continued to decrease slightly between 2011 and 2016 to 2,41 and further down to 2,29 between 2016 and 2019 (Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development and Tourism, 2023). The high levels of unemployment and low income levels have put a damper on the country's demographic dividend to yield positive benefits.

INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Innovation has played a crucial role in driving economic growth and competitiveness in Mpumalanga Province. The Province has embraced technological advancements and digital transformation to enhance productivity, efficiency, and sustainability across various industries. Over the past 30 years, there has been a notable increase in the adoption of innovative practices, research and development initiatives and collaboration with academic institutions and private sector partners to drive innovation-led growth.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

While Mpumalanga Province has made significant progress in developing its human capital, fostering innovation, and achieving competitiveness, there are still challenges that need to be addressed. These include addressing inequality, enhancing infrastructure development, and promoting sustainable development practices. Moving forward, the Province has opportunities to further leverage its strengths, capitalize on emerging trends and collaborate with stakeholders to drive inclusive growth and prosperity for all residents.

LESSONS TOWARDS 2030

The past 30 years have seen Mpumalanga Province make commendable strides in developing its human capital, contributing modestly to the GDP, succeeding in implementing affirmative action, fostering innovation, and achieving competitiveness. By building on these achievements, addressing challenges and seizing opportunities, the Province can continue on its path towards sustainable growth, prosperity and a brighter future for all its residents.

The narrative in this chapter lead to the following recommendations:

- Improve ECD attendance. NPO and the private sector/individuals can play an important role in building, registering and managing new ECDs to ensure access.
- The number of people with no schooling in the Province need to be reduced from the current 11,7% which is higher than the national norm of 6.9%
- Post school education need to be improved. The number of bursaries from both the public and private sector could be increased to improve post school qualifications in the Province.
- Educational Programmes need to be introduced to reduce GBV and femicide in the Province.
- Concerted efforts by Departments need to be made to reduce HDI disparities between Whites (0,90), Blacks (0,58), Asians (0,78) and coloureds (0,70).
- Advancement of women, people with disabilities and youth need to be prioritised.

CHAPTER [7]

NATION-BUILDING, SOCIAL COHESION, AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY



This chapter focuses on progress with regard to Mpumalanga's contribution to nation building, social cohesion, and an inclusive society. The assessment in this chapter focuses on social wellbeing. To assess social wellbeing over the past thirty years, several indicators are used to measure progress made in improving the lives of the population of Mpumalanga. Several indicators are used to arrive at a conclusion whether the lives of the people of Mpumalanga have been impacted positively or negatively by different Government interventions. These indicators include demographic trends, political inclusivity, education, employment, unemployment, poverty, GBV and femicide, as well as sexual and gender minorities.

The above set of indicators is assessed at different intervals over a period of thirty years and incorporated into the narrative which leads to conclusions and recommendations.

Before 1994, the majority of South African women experienced disenfranchisement, marginalisation, and a lack of access to fundamental rights, opportunities, and entitlements. Women of all races were relegated to a position of inferiority within a male-dominated and patriarchal society. This was evident in both African traditional society and European colonial society. Legislation and policies entrenched these patriarchal norms, leading to the widespread marginalisation of women. This was particularly acute for poor black women, who were largely excluded from political and economic spheres, as well as from decision-making processes across cultural, social, and legal domains. African women, positioned at the lowest rung of this hierarchical system, faced the most severe restrictions. Indian and Coloured women experienced marginally better conditions. Yet, they, too, suffered under laws that stripped African women of rights to home ownership or rental, child custody, education, and fair wages (National 30-year review report, 2023).

Additionally, black women were systematically denied equal access to productive assets such as land, homes, and other property, as well as health care, social services, education, and employment. The education system, starkly fragmented and racially segregated, perpetuated harmful social norms and gender stereotypes, with young women and women with disabilities carrying much more of a burden over and above the race element. By the late 1980s and early 1990s, enrolment at the primary level was slightly more male than female, reflecting these divides (National 30-year review report, 2023).

Before 1994, the youth in South Africa was perceived in contrasting ways depending on the prevailing political climate. Some regarded them as heroes of the liberation struggle, while others viewed them as reckless, impulsive, and unmanageable adversaries of apartheid. This perception shifted significantly in 1994, with President Nelson Mandela recognising young people as a crucial National asset. He famously stated that the youth are the valued possession of the nation. 'Without them, there can be no future. Their needs are immense and urgent. They are the centre of reconstruction and development' (National 30-year review report, 2023).

NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ASPIRATIONS

The RDP elevated nation building as one of the six key principles for driving change in the society post the 1994 elections. The aim of the RDP was to deal with divisions and inequalities created by the divisive policies of the previous apartheid system. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 and the NDP 2030, 2010, envisages a Republic of South Africa which is united, prosperous, non-racial, non-sexist, and democratic. The NDP 2030 further envisages sustained campaigns against racism, sexism, homophobia, and xenophobia. It is for this reason that at National level, institutions such as the Human Rights Commission, Commission on Gender Equality as well as the Employment Equity Commission were established to ensure that the ideals of the Constitution, 1996 and the NDP 2030 are realised.

Mpumalanga Province is blessed with a rich history and presence of a cultural and linguistic diversity which can be harnessed to promote social cohesion. To achieve the objectives of policies cited in this section of the report, the following are some of the aspirations of the Mpumalanga Province:

- Improve mixed use of residential areas
- Create opportunities for interaction through sports for people of different cultural backgrounds; and
- Encourage learning of other languages spoken in the Mpumalanga Province.

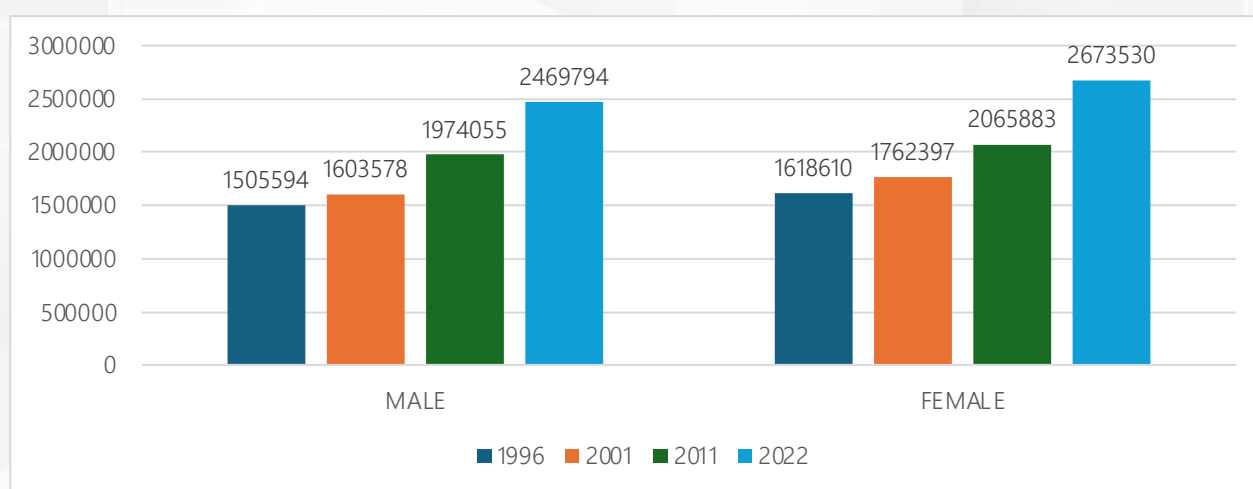
MILESTONES AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

DEMOGRAPHIC MAKE-UP OF MPUMALANGA

The 1996 population of the Mpumalanga Province as per figure 41 below was 3 123 869 (7.7% of the South African population). Census 2001 revealed that the population of Mpumalanga Province was 3 365 554 which represented 7.5% of South Africa's population. In 2011, the Mpumalanga Province's population was 4 039 939 which accounted for 7.8% of the overall population of South Africa. Census 2022 shows that the population grew to 5 143 323. This growth represents an annual growth rate of 2.3% between 2011 and 2022 (see figure 41).

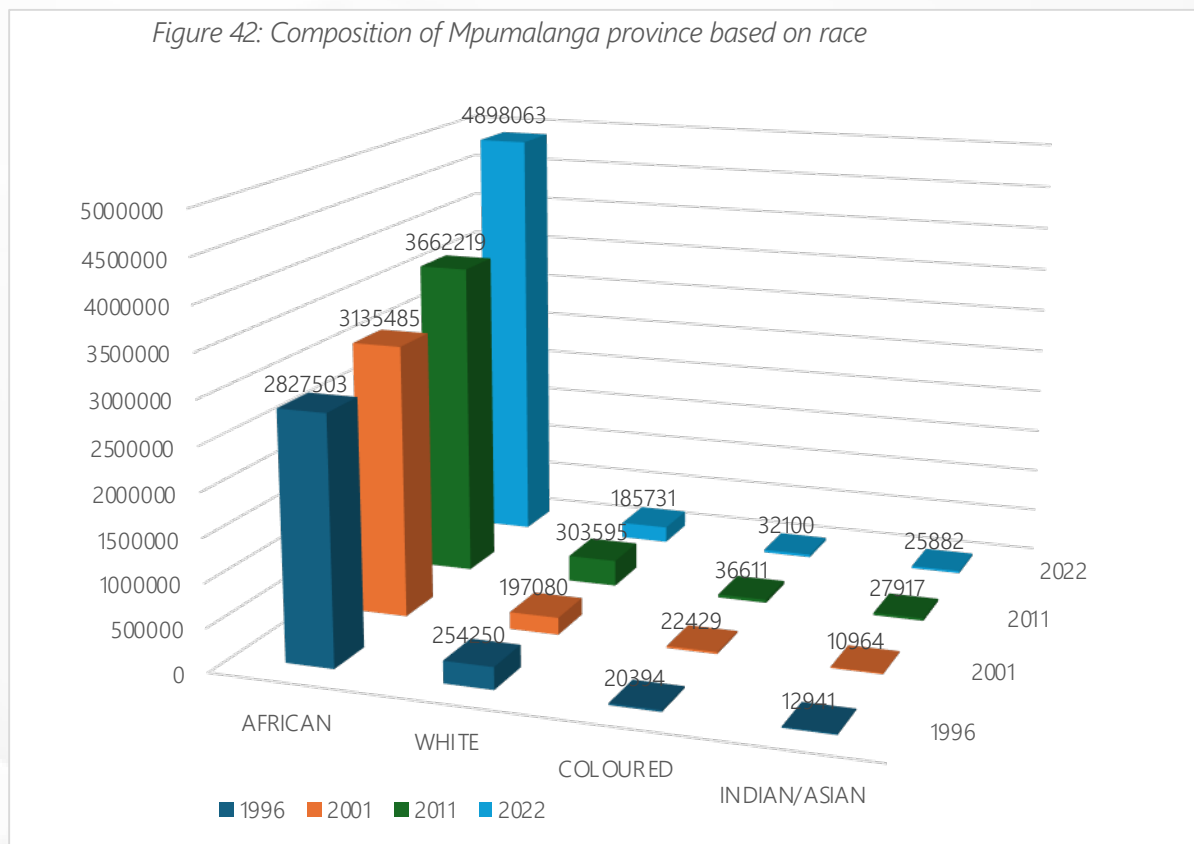
Between 1996 and 2001, the Province's population increased by 7.7%. This growth was below the National growth average which was 10.4%. Between 2001 and 2007, the population further increased by 8.3%. Furthermore, between 2007 and 2011 there was a 10.9% population increase. The 2022 census shows an increase of 27.3% in the population growth between 2011 and 2022. The Mpumalanga Province saw an accelerated growth of 20.0% which was above the 15,5% National average followed by a growth of 27.3% which was also above the National average of 19,8%. There are no significant differences between the Mpumalanga Province's gender composition and the National averages.

Figure 41: Population by gender in Mpumalanga 1996-2022



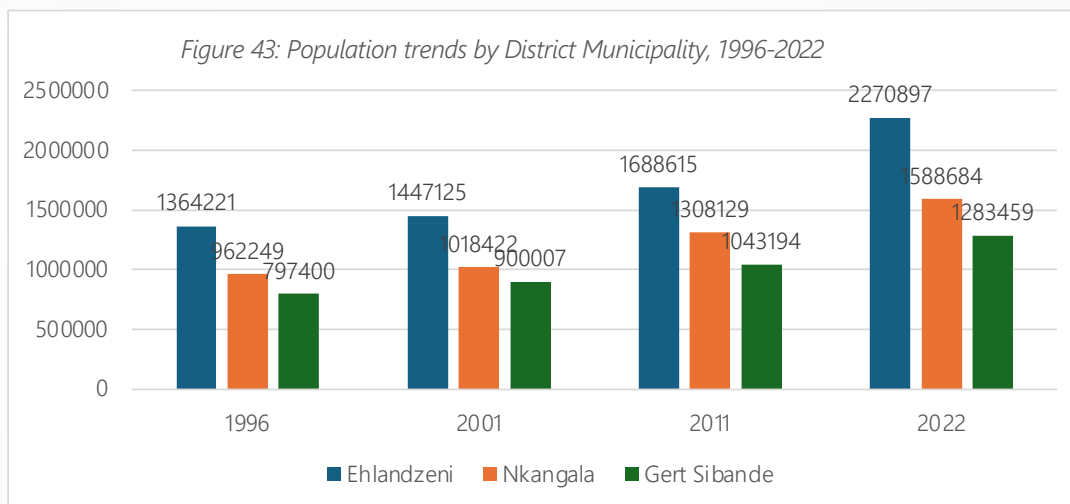
Source: Stats SA-Censuses 1996, 2001, 2011 and 2022

Figure 42 below shows that Africans in the Province are in the majority followed by Whites, Coloureds and Indians. The descriptor, “other” was added to the 2011 census and generated 9 597 responses. In the 2022 census, the same descriptor was used and this time around it elicited only 440 responses.



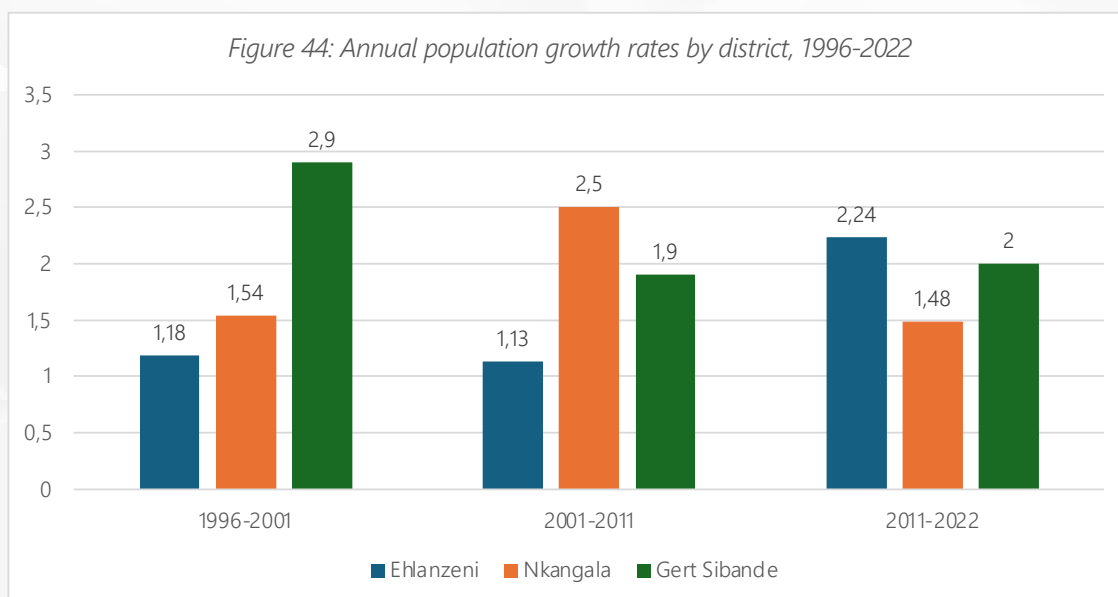
Source: Statistics South Africa-Censuses 1996, 2001, 2011 & 2022

For purposes of this report, demographic trends are only analysed at Provincial and District levels. Figure 43 below is the presentation of Mpumalanga Province’s demographic trends per District between 1996 and 2022. As per the 2022 census, 44.2% of Mpumalanga’s population is concentrated in Ehlanzeni, 30.9% in Nkangala and 25.0% in Gert Sibande. Furthermore, females constituted the majority of the population in Ehlanzeni (52.8%), Gert Sibande (51.7%), as well as in Nkangala (51.0%). In 2022, 66.0% of Ehlanzeni’s population was younger than 35 years of age, followed by Gert Sibande (64.3%) and Nkangala (61.8%). These statistics tally with the median age of the population which was estimated to be between 21 and 24 for the 1996, 2001 and 2011 censuses. These numbers further suggest that Mpumalanga has a relatively youthful population which requires Government to invest in projects which are aimed at youth development.



Source: Stats SA-Censuses 1996, 2001, 2011 & 2022

As depicted in figure 44, the population of Ehlanzeni has doubled in the past 30 years with a sharp increase witnessed between 2011 and 2022. Contrary to the increase witnessed in Ehlanzeni, Nkangala and Gert Sibande Districts witnessed a decrease. Nkangala's population increased from 1.13% to 2.5% and then decreased by 1.9%. Gert Sibande's population increased by 2.4% and decreased to 1.48% and then improved by 2% by year 2022.



Source: Stats SA-Censuses 1996, 2001, 2011 & 2022

The increasing diversity of languages spoken in Mpumalanga Province is an indication of the inclusiveness of the society in the Province. The most spoken languages in Mpumalanga are SiSwati, followed by IsiZulu, isiNdebele, and Sepedi. Significant developments are witnessed in the outcomes of the 2022 census with the emergence of three new languages.

Table 20: Percentage of Languages spoken in Mpumalanga

Language	1996	2001	2022
Afrikaans	8,2	6,2	3,2
English	2,0	1,7	1,5
IsiNdebele	12,4	12,1	9,9
IsiXhosa	1,3	1,5	1,0
Isizulu	25,2	26,4	27,8
Sepedi	10,4	10,8	10,3
Sesotho	3,2	3,7	2,3
Setswana	2,7	2,7	1,6
Sign language	N/A	N/A	0,02
SiSwati	29,8	30,8	30,5
Tshivenda	0,1	0,2	0,2
Xitsonga	3,5	3,8	10,6
Khoi, Nama, Sign Language	N/A	N/A	0,01
Shona	N/A	N/A	0,6
Chichewa/Chewa, Nyanja/Chinyanja	N/A	N/A	0,1
Portuguese	N/A	N/A	0,3
Other	0,4	0,3	0,3
Total	100	100	100

Source: Statistics South Africa: Censuses 1996, 2001 and 2022

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS IN MPUMALANGA

Mpumalanga has diverse religious affiliations as outlined in Table 21. The percentages of religious affiliations captured in the table need to be interpreted and understood based on the questionnaires which were used in different sets of censuses. In the 1996 and 2001 censuses, respondents were asked whether they are affiliated to independent churches, mainline Christianity, other, no religion, other Christian, Pentecostal/charismatic, Eastern/other, Islam, Hinduism, or Judaism. The 2011 census omitted questions on religion. In the 2022 census, respondents were asked whether they are affiliated to Christianity, Islam, Traditional African Religion, Hinduism, no affiliation, no religion and other/unspecified.

To arrive at the statistics presented in the table below for the 1996 statistics, the figures recorded for independent churches are 39.3%, mainline Christian 19.8%, other Christian 8.4% and Pentecostal/charismatic 7.8% were added together to arrive at Christian affiliation of 75.3%. The same formula was used to arrive at 82.3% Christian affiliation in 2001. The table below shows that Christian affiliation has increased from 75.3% in 1996 to 89.1% in 2022. Islam has remained stable at a low base of 0.5%. Traditional African Religion was unaccounted for in 1996 and 2001 as respondents were not asked questions regarding this religion. When respondents were asked this question in later censuses, 7.8% of the respondents were found to be affiliated to the Traditional African Religion. The 7.8% affiliation to the Traditional African Religion explains higher percentages of no affiliation/no religion and other unspecified which dropped sharply to 1.8 and 0.6 respectively in the 2022 census.

Table 21: Religious affiliations in Mpumalanga

Religion	1996	2001	2022
Christianity	75,3	82,3	89,1
Islam	0,5	0,5	0,5
Traditional African Religion	N/A	N/A	7,8
Hinduism	0,1	0,1	0,1
No affiliation/No religion	10,5	14,8	1,8
Other/unspecified	13,6	2,2	0,6
Total	100	100	100

Source: Statistics South Africa: Censuses 1996, 2001 and 2022

POLITICAL INCLUSIVITY

The Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature is the highest law-making body in the Province. The legislature, with its overarching responsibilities to make laws and oversee the implementation of such laws, has the responsibility to lead by example in nation building, social cohesion and fostering an inclusive society. These key principles of a developing society must form the basis of laws passed by the legislature. To instil confidence in the society, the legislature should also be responsive to social and gender inclusion in its composition.

The Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature was made-up of 30 members as prescribed by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996. In the 6th Administration, the legislature had 22 members from the African National Congress (ANC), 4 from the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), 2 from the Democratic Alliance (DA) and 2 from the Freedom Front Plus. The Provincial Legislature had a 50/50 balance of males and females. A further breakdown shows that there were 13 black males and two white males in the legislature, prior to the 2024 National elections. Female representation in the legislature consisted of one Indian female and 14 black women. While there is a fair representation on the basis of gender, it must be pointed out that Coloureds, white females and Indian males were not represented in the legislature of the fifth & sixth administrations.

Since 1994, the Province had, until 2018, males as Premiers (Matthews Phosa, Ndaweni Mahlangu, Thabang Makwetla, and David Mabuza). In the past thirty years, more females were elected to the position of Speaker than males. The election of the Honourable Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane saw Mpumalanga getting a female to occupy the premiership, for the first time.

SPORTS

South Africa has an unfortunate history of discriminatory laws and institutionalisation of separate development as well as the non-sharing of spaces and sporting codes. As a result of these discriminatory laws, South Africa was not allowed to participate in several international sporting codes. With growing confidence that South Africa was moving towards a democratic dispensation, the country was readmitted to the Olympic Community on 9 July 1991 and subsequently took part in the Barcelona Games (Berenford, Tisdal and Rodda 1991). From international isolation, South Africa became a major role player in world sport. The most significant event for the country and the Mpumalanga Province was the successful bid to host the 2010 FIFA world Cup tournament. The decision to award hosting rights to South Africa led to a number of construction projects including the Mbombela Stadium which remains an important sporting landmark in the Province.

The Mpumalanga Provincial Department of Culture, Sports and Recreation gets its mandate from, amongst others, the National Sports Act, 1998 (Act No. 110 of 1998). This piece of legislation aims to correct the imbalances in sports and recreation. In his/-delete her speech the then MEC (2015) stated that sports is a unifying tool that the Department can leverage on to build a patriotic, socially cohesive society in Mpumalanga Province. The former MEC for Culture, Sports and Recreation highlighted the lack of transformation in a few sporting codes and the need to make sporting codes accessible to all irrespective of their race or gender.

It is the view of the Department that sharing of spaces leads to racial integration. The Province has hosted a number of sporting events such as Kaapsehoop 3 in 1 marathon, the Mbombela Marathon, and the Mpumalanga Panorama Cycling tour. The School Sports Programme brings together 9 973 learners who participate at a district school tournament in various sporting codes (Mpumalanga Provincial Department of Culture, Sports and Recreation, 2024).

UNEMPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

Unemployment is one of the challenges that consecutive administrations of Government in South Africa and the Mpumalanga Province had to grapple with. The objective was and is still the quest to reduce unemployment and increase employment. The NDP 2030 envisaged that the unemployment rate will fall from 24,9% in 2012 to 14% by 2020 and further down to 6% by 2030. Furthermore, the NDP 2030 envisaged that the labour force participation rate will rise from 54% to 65% and raise the annual per capita income from R50 000 in 2010 to R120 000 by 2030. These were noble predictions and intentions although these have not been realised partly due to the Covid-19 Pandemic (NPC, 2010).

This section of the report assesses the rate of unemployment from the first Administration of Government to the latest administration which finished its term in 2024. Between 1994 and 2014, employment at National level rose by 6.2 million. The labour force, or those who are working and not working increased by 8.7 million. The result was a net increase of 2,6 million unemployed people. During this period unemployment rose from 22% to 25%.

The 1996 census reflect that Mpumalanga had 1.6 million people in the age category of 15 to 64 years. 606 000 of these people were employed, 439 000 were unemployed and 718 000 were not economically active. The number of people in the same category of 15 to 65 years increased to 1.9 million in 2011. 630 000 of the 1.9 million were employed, 439 000 were unemployed and 838 000 were not economically active (Stats SA, 1996).

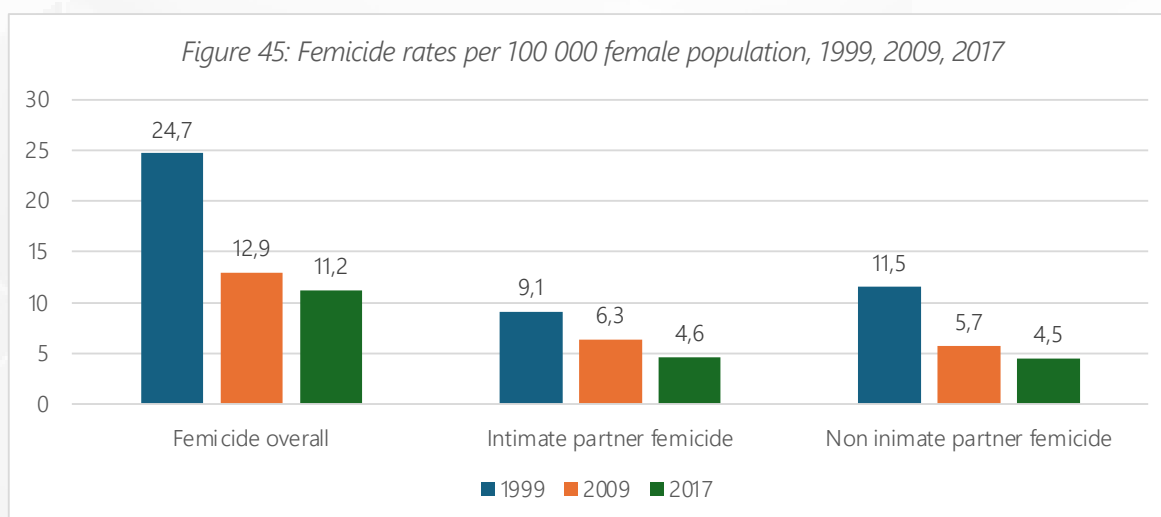
There were more males (55.4%) employed in Mpumalanga in Q4 of 2023 than females. In 2023, the male employment number increased by 14 404 to 692 743. Female employment numbers increased by 49 465 to 557 396, and therefore recorded a higher share in Q4 of 2023 (44.6%) than a year earlier (42.8%). In Q4 of 2023, adults (35-64 years) held most jobs in Mpumalanga with a share of 63.8%. The adult employment numbers increased by 55 121 from a year earlier and the share increased from 62.6% in Q4 of 2022 to the current 63.8%. The youth (15-34 years) employment numbers increased by 8 748 and therefore the youth share declined from 37.4% in Q4 of 2022 to 36.2% in Q4 of 2023.

The Provincial employment figure was 1.25 million in Q4 of 2023, which was 63 869 more on an annual basis and 47 705 more on a quarterly basis. This was the highest employment number recorded for the Province since the first release of the QLFS in 2008. On a quarterly basis, employment levels increased in five Provinces and declined in four. KwaZulu-Natal (61 987) recorded the highest quarterly gains in job numbers, while Mpumalanga (47 705) showed the second largest quarterly gain in employment numbers. Mpumalanga's latest employment level of 1.25 million was 4 424 more than the number employed in Q1 of 2020 before the lockdown came into effect at the end of March in the same year.

In Mpumalanga, the formal employees' share of total employment declined from 59.2% in Q4 of 2022 to 58.0% in Q4 of 2023. The informal sector's share increased from 25.6% to 26.6% on an annual basis. The share of agriculture declined to 6.9% in Q4 of 2023, whereas private households' share rose to 8.5% from 7.5% in Q4 of 2022. In Q4 of 2023, community services (22.0%), trade (22.0%), and finance (12.5%) made the largest contributions to employment in the Province. In Mpumalanga, the official unemployment rate declined by 1.2% points on an annual basis. The rate declined from 36.1% in Q4 of 2022 to 34.9% in Q4 of 2023. Mpumalanga's unemployment rate declined by 0.6% point over the last quarter, declining from 35.5% in Q3 of 2023. In Q4 of 2023, the female unemployment rate was 37.3% and that of males 32.8%. The unemployment rate for youth of working age (15-34 years) was 46.4%, whereas the unemployment rate for adults (35-64 years) was 25.9%. The female youth unemployment rate of 50.5% was somewhat higher than the male youth unemployment rate of 42.6%. In Q4 of 2023, Mpumalanga recorded a ratio of 44.1% not in employment, education and training, which was lower/better than the 46.6% recorded in Q4 of 2022. On an annual basis, the expanded unemployment rate in Mpumalanga declined/improved from 48.2% in Q4 of 2022 to 45.8% in Q4 of 2023 (DEDT, 2024).

FEMICIDE

The study conducted by the South African Medical Research Council (2022) provides insights into the prevalence of femicide in South Africa in relation to the Mpumalanga Province. The statistics in Figure 45 indicates that there were 24.7 femicides per 100 000 of the female population in 1999. These figures decreased to 12.9 and 11.2 in 2009 and 2017, respectively. In the same period, cases of intimate partner femicide decreased from 9.1 to 6.3 to 4.6. Similarly, there was a decrease in non-intimate partner femicide from 11.5, to 5.7 to 4.5. In 1999, femicides accounted for 3 793 deaths, decreasing to 2 363 in 2009 and then increasing to 2 407.



Source: South African Medical Research Council, 2022

In comparison with the available National statistics, Mpumalanga Province's statistics in 2017 reveal that overall, femicide accounted for 5.7 per 100 000 of the female population, intimate partner femicide 3.0 and non-intimate partner femicide 2.0 (SAMRC, 2022).

SEXUAL AND GENDER MINORITIES

Sexual and gender minorities refer to lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgender and queer people (LGBTQ). The rights of this category of South Africans were included in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996. It is for this reason imperative to establish the extent to which the LGBTQ community feels accepted in the Mpumalanga Province. Collection of statistics in South Africa does not reveal the number of LGBTQ people in South Africa. However, this limitation does not mean that this indicator cannot be assessed. The assessment of this indicator is different as it relies more on qualitative data as opposed to quantitative data used for most indicators in this chapter of the report. The closest estimates of the percentage of LGBTQ people in a population is provided by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). OECD statistics suggest that LGBTQ people constitute 2.7% of the population. One in three LGBTQ people in OECD countries believe that they have been discriminated against because of their sexual orientation.

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 outlaws discrimination based on, amongst others, sexual orientation. Evidence from elsewhere in the World suggest that acceptance of LGBTQ people is low (OECD 2019). The low level of acceptance further suggest that they are prone to discrimination.

CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS TOWARDS 2030

The Mpumalanga Provincial Government has made some strides in nation building, social cohesion, and the attainment of an inclusive society. Despite the successes highlighted in this chapter, challenges in nation building, social cohesion and building an inclusive society still persist. The population has not only grown in numbers across the three Districts, but its growth has also welcomed people of other nationalities without reported social disruptions. The ability of the Mpumalanga population to accommodate other nationalities is evident in the emergence of three new languages which have made their debut in the 2022 census reports.

At a political level, the Province has embraced diversity and inclusivity on gender. The administration which was governing the Province at the time this report was commissioned, was led by a woman after all previous administrations were male dominated, as incumbents of the position of Premier were all males. The composition of the Provincial Legislature has also sought to promote gender equity as all political party representatives were nominated and sent to the legislature considering the need to promote a balanced gender composition.

Education is one area which has faced challenges which are both unique to the Province and universal in South Africa. The unique challenge is raising attendances at all levels and increasing the number of people who possess a post-school qualification. Unemployment has remained a challenge that future administrations will have to contend with. In an inclusive, equal, and cohesive society. Gender stereotypes, patriarchy and violence will have to be everyone's business in the Province. The rights of the LGBTQ community must be protected as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996. A median population of between 21 and 24 require Government to invest in job creation for the Province to benefit from this demographic dividend.

CHAPTER *[8]*

BETTER QUALITY HEALTH FOR ALL



The quality of health, according to the World Health Organisation, can be described as the degree to which health services for individuals and populations increase the likelihood of desired health outcomes. To assess the extent to which the Mpumalanga Provincial Government has contributed to better health for all, this chapter will consider life expectancy, HIV prevalence, access to antiretroviral treatment, viral suppression, and the strides made in the fight against tuberculosis. The 90-90-90 targets will be used as a yardstick to measure achievement of predetermined objectives within the Mpumalanga Province.

In 1994, the newly established democratic Government in South Africa inherited a highly fragmented healthcare system with multiple health Departments. This system was inequitable and hospital-centric, whilst being strongly biased towards curative and higher-level health services. Remarkably, only 11% of the public sector healthcare expenditure was devoted to non-hospital primary care services. Additionally, it was racially segregated, favouring historically white areas, and was inequitably biased towards the wealthy minority. This minority, constituting approximately 23% of the population, had access to about 61% of the total healthcare expenditure in 1992/93. (National 30-year Review Report, 2023).

Pervasive racial and socio-economic inequalities permeated the healthcare sector and impacted significant health indicators such as life expectancy, maternal mortality ratio, infant mortality rate, and incidence of TB. The best available estimates of life expectancy during the pre-democracy era reflect that, in 1998, life expectancy amongst White South Africans was 65,2 years for males and 73 years for females. By contrast, African life expectancy was significantly lower at 52,5 years for males and 64,6 years for females. At birth, the probability was that the life of an African female would be 9 years shorter than that of a White female. In 1998, infant mortality for white infants was 13.1/1 000 live births, compared to 70/1,000 live births for black infants (Jurjus, 2005)(National 30-year Review Report, 2023).

The provision of health infrastructure was a challenge pre-1994. There was a misdistribution of hospital beds and clinics. An audit of hospitals conducted by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in the country in 1996 found that about 12% of the available stock of public hospitals needed to be replaced, while 17% required renovations (Harrison, 2010). Pre-1994, wide-ranging inequities in access to services included a misdistribution of human resources for health, skewed in favour of the private sector. A case in point was the distribution of general practitioners (doctors). Of the 17438 general practitioners in South Africa in 1996, 10,067 (57.7%) worked in the private sector and 7,371 in the public health sector. Urban-rural inequities were also pervasive, with nearly 60% of all public sector general practitioners based in the urban Provinces of Gauteng and the Western Cape (National 30-year Review Report, 2023).

NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ASPIRATIONS

The Reconstruction and Development Plan (1994) sought to prioritise HIV/AIDS education and treatment. In the second decade of democracy, the NDP 2030, introduced in 2012, envisioned a health system that works for everyone, produces positive health outcomes, and is accessible to all. The NDP 2030 further observed that the current health system cannot meet the demand or sustain quality. The NDP 2030 further set an objective to:

- Raise the life expectancy of South Africans to at least 70 years and improve TB prevention and cure;
- Produce a generation of under-20s that is mainly free of HIV;
- Reduce the burden of disease;
- Achieve an infant mortality rate of less than 20 deaths per thousand live births, including an under -5 mortality rate of less than 30 per thousand;
- Achieve a significant shift in equity, efficiency and quality of health service provision;
- Achieve universal health coverage; and
- Significantly reduce the social determinants of disease and adverse ecological factors.

Quality health care should reach all citizens, be effective, safe, people centred, timely, equitable, integrated, and efficient. In line with the above overarching aspirations, the following are specific aspirations that the Mpumalanga Provincial Government has had for the thirty years under review:

- Free quality health care for all
- More health care employees (professionals and paramedics)
- Decentralised health care management
- Community representation in health governance systems
- Broaden ARV coverage for HIV positive people
- Men and Women have a life expectancy rate of at least 70 years
- The generation of under-twenty is largely free of HIV
- The quadruple burden of disease has been radically reduced; and
- An infant mortality rate of less than 20 deaths per 1000 live births and an under five mortality rate of less than 30 per 1000.

LEGISLATION, KEY POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

The democratic Government developed legislation, policies, and programmes to enhance health-care delivery and improve the nation's health status. The Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1996 legalised termination of pregnancy, offered women a choice to terminate and made provision for the delivery of such services in the public sector and outlined circumstances in and conditions under which the pregnancy of a woman may be terminated. This enhanced the lives of many women and brought South Africa in line with global best practices.

The Medicines and Related Substances Control Amendment Act, 1997 (Act No. 90 of 1997) aims to enhance the availability of quality, affordable medicines. Having good quality medicines available is one of the basic building blocks of a health system, and this Act enables this.

The Tobacco Products Control Amendment Act, 1999 (Act No. 12 of 1999) aims to discourage smoking. Stopping smoking (or not starting) is one of the most critical positive health behaviours of modern times. Smoking is associated with numerous long-term adverse health effects, including heart disease, lung cancer and general ill-health, with consequences at an individual level as well as at a population level with an increased burden of disease.

The National Health Laboratory Service Act, 2000 (Act No. 37 of 2000) provides for establishing a single National public entity to provide public health laboratory services and developing policies to enable the provision of health laboratory services. This ensured that all Provinces had access to the same laboratory services nationwide and that expertise and knowledge were quickly disseminated through this public entity.

The Mental Health Act, 2002 (Act No. 17 of 2002) regulates mental health care to ensure the best possible treatment and rehabilitation services are equitably available to the whole population. The Act further clarifies the rights and obligations of mental health users.

The National Health Amendment Act, 2013 (Act No. 12 of 2013) provides for, amongst other things, the establishment of the Office of Health Standards Compliance (OHSC). The objects of the OHSC include advising the Minister of Health on matters relating to the norms and standards that will regulate the proposed National Health Insurance Scheme. The functions of the OHSC include inspecting and certifying health establishments as compliant or not.

The National Public Health Institute of South Africa was established by means of the National Public Health Institute of South Africa Act, 2020 (Act No. 1 of 2020). This independent body has a wide range of activities as its mandate, including coordinating disease surveillance, providing specialised public health services and interventions, training and research. It is also mandated to provide the Government with support, expertise and advice to improve the population's health.

Key policies included introducing free health care services for children under six and pregnant and lactating mothers in 1996. The policy of free Primary Health Care services was later expanded to all South Africans. These policies sought to increase the accessibility of health for expectant mothers and their babies as a priority service and then all of primary health care.

In 2003, the Comprehensive HIV and AIDS Care, Management and Treatment Operational Plan was approved by the Cabinet. It was followed by successive iterations of National Strategic Plans (NSPs) to deal with HIV & AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) as well as Tuberculosis.

The health sector also produced the Strategic Plan for Maternal, New-born, Child and Women's Health (MNCWH) and Nutrition in South Africa 2012-2016. This Strategic Plan outlined the country's strategies for reducing mortality and morbidity among mothers and children. The strategic plan outlined interventions to improve the functioning of Primary Health Care services and the District health system to enhance maternal and child care (National 30-year Review Report, 2023).

MILESTONES AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

LIFE EXPECTANCY

Life expectancy is one of the indicators of the quality of life and health in a society. To assess how the Mpumalanga Provincial Government has contributed to the improvement of the quality of life of its citizens, it is necessary to benchmark the Province against the ideal life expectancy and the National average. The NDP 2030's ideal for both average male and female life expectancy at birth is envisaged to improve to 70 years by 2030 (NPC, 2010).

In 2022, life expectancy in South Africa was 65.6 years for females and 60.0 years for males. Mpumalanga's male life expectancy at birth was 58.6 years for the period 2011 to 2016 and 60.7 years for the period 2016 to 2021. Mpumalanga's male life expectancy for the period 2016 to 2021 was the fourth highest of the nine Provinces. Western Cape at 65.5 years had the highest male life expectancy with Free State at 55.5 years being the lowest.

Mpumalanga's female life expectancy for the periods 2011 to 2016 and 2016 to 2021 were 65.0 years and 65.8 years, respectively. Mpumalanga recorded the fourth highest female life expectancy for the period 2016 to 2021. Western Cape at 71.1 years had the highest or best female life expectancy and Free State (60.6 years) the lowest. While the Mpumalanga Province is not far from the National average on life expectancy, it still has a long way to catch-up with the Western Cape Province and reach the 70-year life expectancy as envisaged by the NDP 2030. The life expectancy of males has shown some improvement while the life expectancy of women, which was relatively higher than men, seem to have increased marginally over a period of 10 years.

The improvement of an average of 2,1% for males and 0,8% for females over a ten-year period suggest that the Mpumalanga Province may not be able to realise the ideal of 70-year life expectancy as envisaged in the NDP 2030. To achieve the 70-year life expectancy, the overall quality of health, quality of life, and service delivery at health facilities have to be improved while the burden of diseases also needs to be reduced. The next section on HIV prevalence provides an overview on an important indicator which has a bearing on the quality of life and life expectancy.

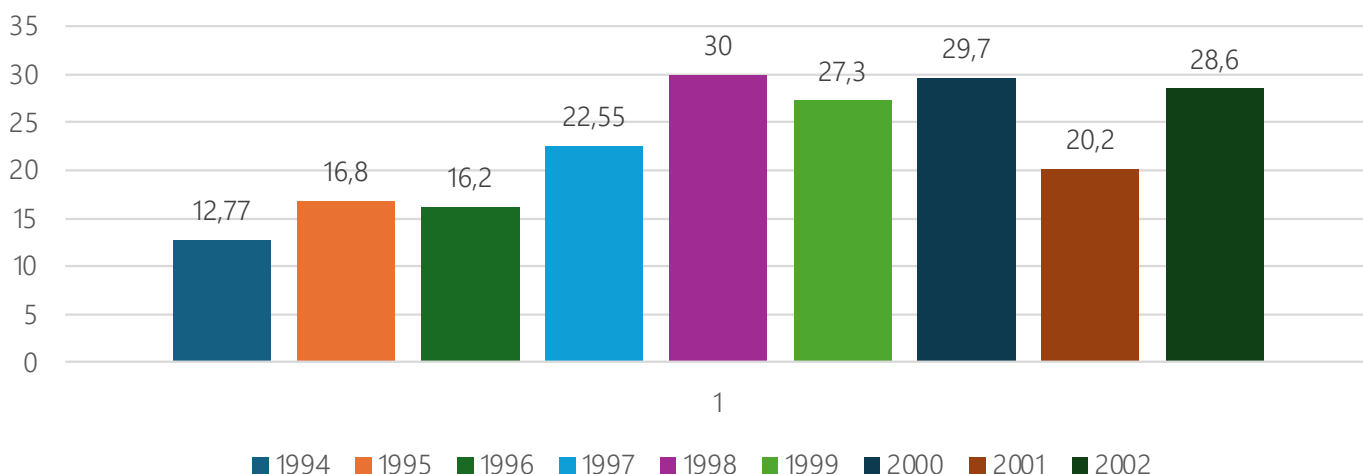
HIV PREVALENCE

HIV/AIDS became the greatest public health crisis in a democratic South Africa. Since 2004, the ART Programme became the largest worldwide with 5,8 million people on treatment in South Africa. This is an achievement that has saved many lives in South Africa and in the Mpumalanga Province. In South Africa, 15,8% of the population uses the private health care system through affiliation of medical aids. This is an indication of the inequality between the rich and poor in South Africa (Smart, 2024).

HIV surveillance is the systematic and regular collection of information on the occurrence, distribution and trends in HIV infection and factors associated with infection for use in decision making and resource allocation. HIV surveillance monitors the risk of infection among a specific population on an ongoing basis. HIV Sero surveillance refers to the measuring of the proportion of a population with HIV infection. The term sero prevalence is used when HIV is determined by testing blood for the HIV antibody.

At the dawn of democracy in 1994, HIV prevalence as measured amongst women who were pregnant was found to be at 12,77%. HIV prevalence increased to 16,8% in 1995 reaching a peak of 30% in 1998 and then came to 27,30% in 1999 and further increasing slightly to 29,70% in 2000 followed by a substantial decrease to 20,20% in 2001. The 2001 decrease was followed by a substantial increase to 28,60% in 2002 (See figure 46).

Figure 46: HIV prevalence amongst pregnant women 1994-2002



Source: World Health Organization, 2004

Figure 46 shows that between 2002 and 2006, HIV prevalence increased by 3,5% to reach 32,1% and then increased to 34,6% in 2007. This increase represents an upward movement of 2,5% in infections before a moderate increase to 35,5% in 2008. In 2008, the increase was just 0,9% signifying a slowdown in infections. Gert Sibande was above the Provincial average between 2006 and 2009. Ehlanzeni was above the Provincial average in 2007. Nkangala District Municipality was consistently below the Provincial average between 2006 and 2008.

At a District level in Mpumalanga, Gert Sibande was at 40%. This District had the highest prevalence level followed by Ehlanzeni which was just above 35% and Nkangala with the lowest prevalence level at 28%. Between 2017 and 2019, there was a slight improvement in the percentage of people who knew their HIV status. Mpumalanga Province improved from 60% in 2017 to 70% in 2019. Of grave concern is that the knowledge of status is low in the age group of between 15 and 19. The age group that is more aware of their status is 35-49 with the awareness level at 80% in 2019 (national statistics). A significant observation from available statistics suggest that ART initiation improved from below 90% in 2017 to just over 90%. In respect of ART initiation, the Province was on par with the National average in 2019.

In 2022, it was estimated that Mpumalanga had the fourth largest HIV prevalence with 759 726 people living with HIV, of these, only 717 080 knew their status. In the same year, 594 894 people were on ART and 541 056 had suppressed viral load. The Province was at 94-83-91 below in terms of the 90-90-90 targets assessment. 488 828 women were living with HIV and 407 060 were on ART. This number translates to 83% of women on ART. Of the 270 897 men living with HIV, only 187 834 or 69% were on ART in 2022.

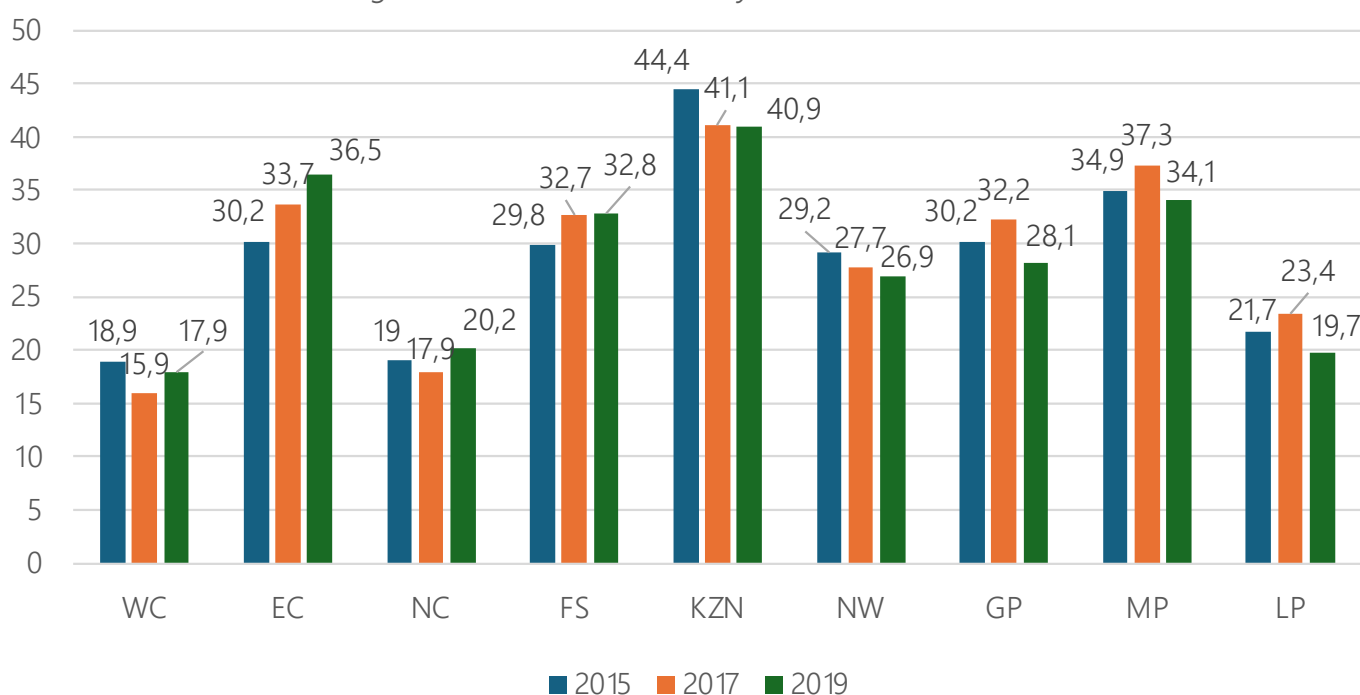
The lower percentage of men on ART is concerning and requires attention by authorities in the Mpumalanga Province. A study conducted by Sithole (2013) found that factors contributing to non-adherence to HIV treatment include amongst others, social support, problems regarding disclosure, employment and economic hardship, traditional and religious beliefs, quality and nature of counselling as well as treatment side effects.

In the South African and Mpumalanga health sector, the overall goal is to eradicate HIV by 2030. To achieve this noble goal, the UNAIDS introduced the 90-90-90 targets. Low's (2019) assessment is that with regard to the first 90, the Province is tied to the National estimate of 90,5% people living with HIV knowing their status. With regards to the second 90, being the percentage of diagnosed people on treatment, the Province is estimated to be around 73,5% which is above the National estimate of 68,4%. On the third 90, which is the percentage of HIV positive people with viral suppression, the Province has recorded 88,1%, which is slightly below the National estimate of 88,4% (Low 2019).

Mpumalanga reached its HIV peak in 2006 with 31 000 deaths. Mpumalanga was one of the four Provinces with a prevalence rate which was higher than the National norm in 2012. Mpumalanga recorded the second highest figures after KwaZulu-Natal. In 2012, 15% of the population was infected. Which represented an increase of between 1,8% and 2,7% (DoH, 2019).

In 2017, the South African National Aids Survey sampled two Districts in a study conducted in Mpumalanga. The Sampled Districts are Ehlanzeni and Gert Sibande. HIV prevalence for Ehlanzeni was 20%. Gert Sibande's prevalence was 22,9%. Recorded HIV prevalence was higher than the National average which was 14,0%. The viral load suppression amongst people living with HIV who were on ART was 61,3% in 2017. In 2018, 7 100 people died of HIV in Mpumalanga (Department of Health, 2019)

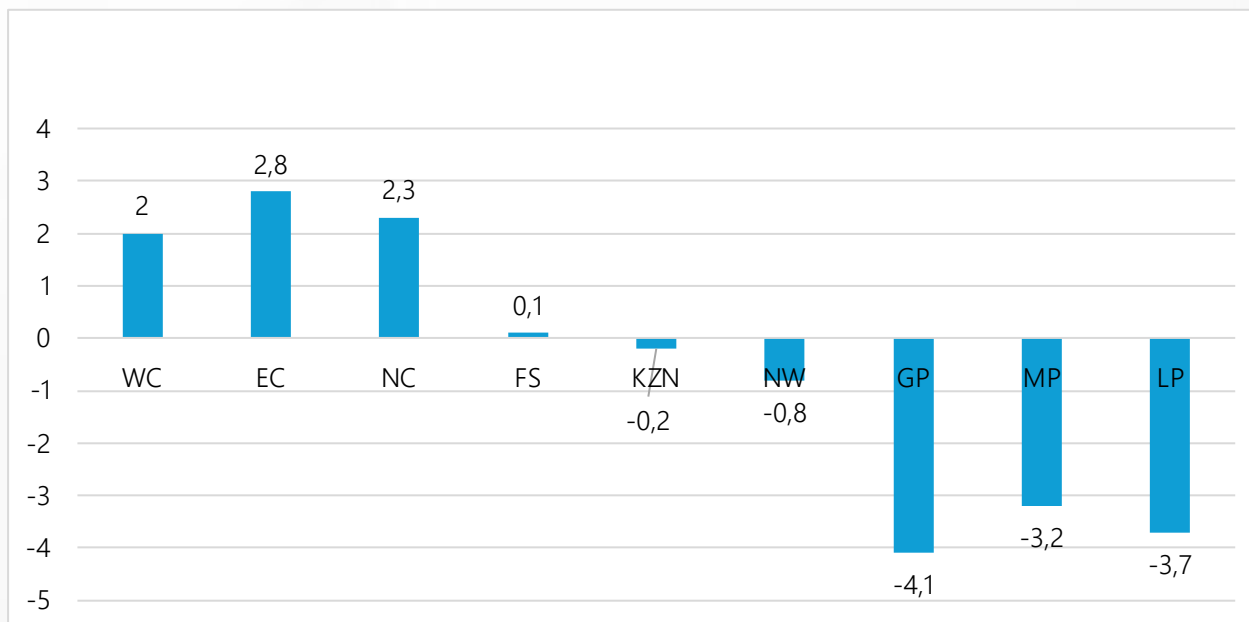
Figure 47 : HIV Prevalence by Province, 2015-2019



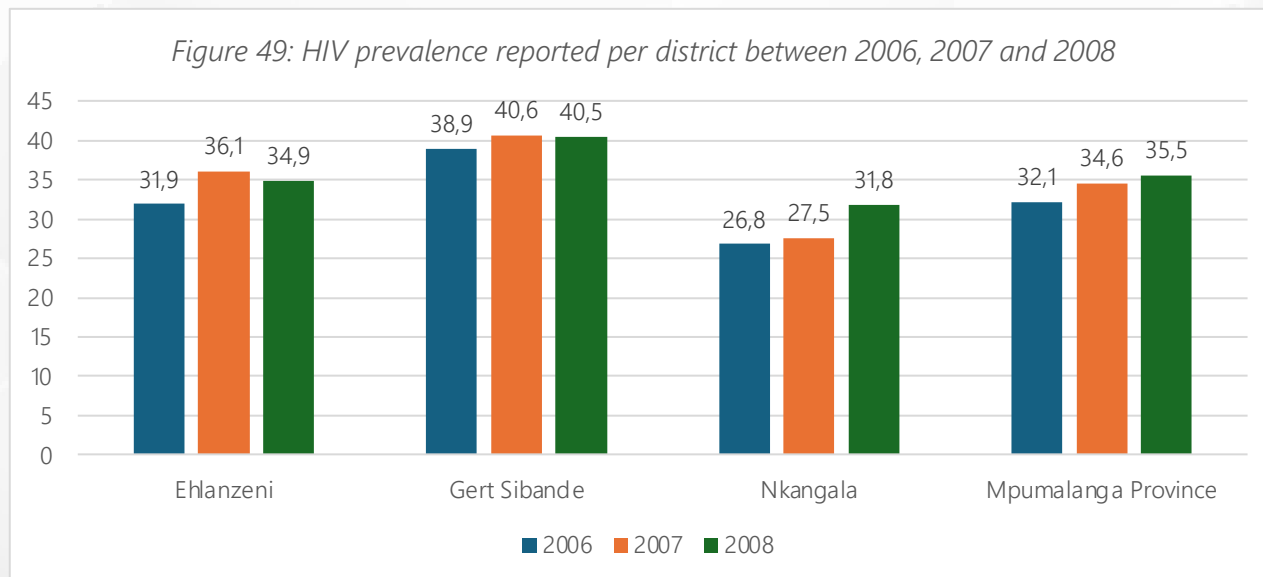
Source: National Department of Health, 2019

Figure 48 below shows that the Mpumalanga Province had the third highest decrease in HIV prevalence amongst the nine Provinces. The Province had a decrease of 3,2%. Gauteng Province had the highest decrease at 4.1% followed by Limpopo Province at 3,7%. This decrease happened in the last five years of the thirty years of democracy.

Figure 48: Change in HIV prevalence by Province, 2017 and 2019

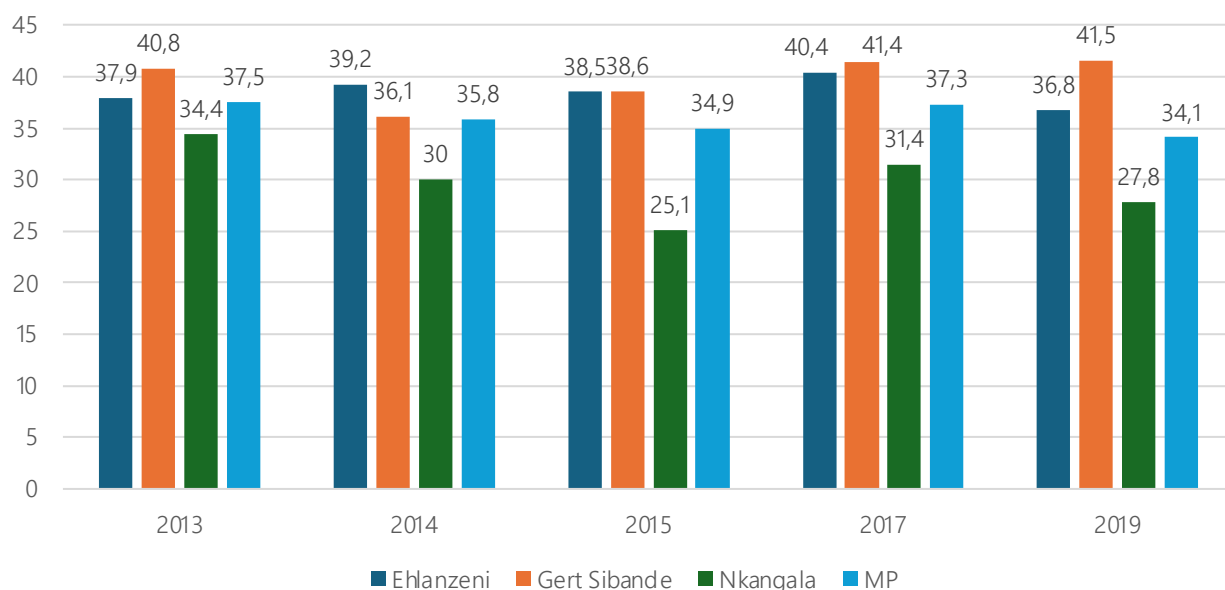


Source: Statistics South Africa, 2019



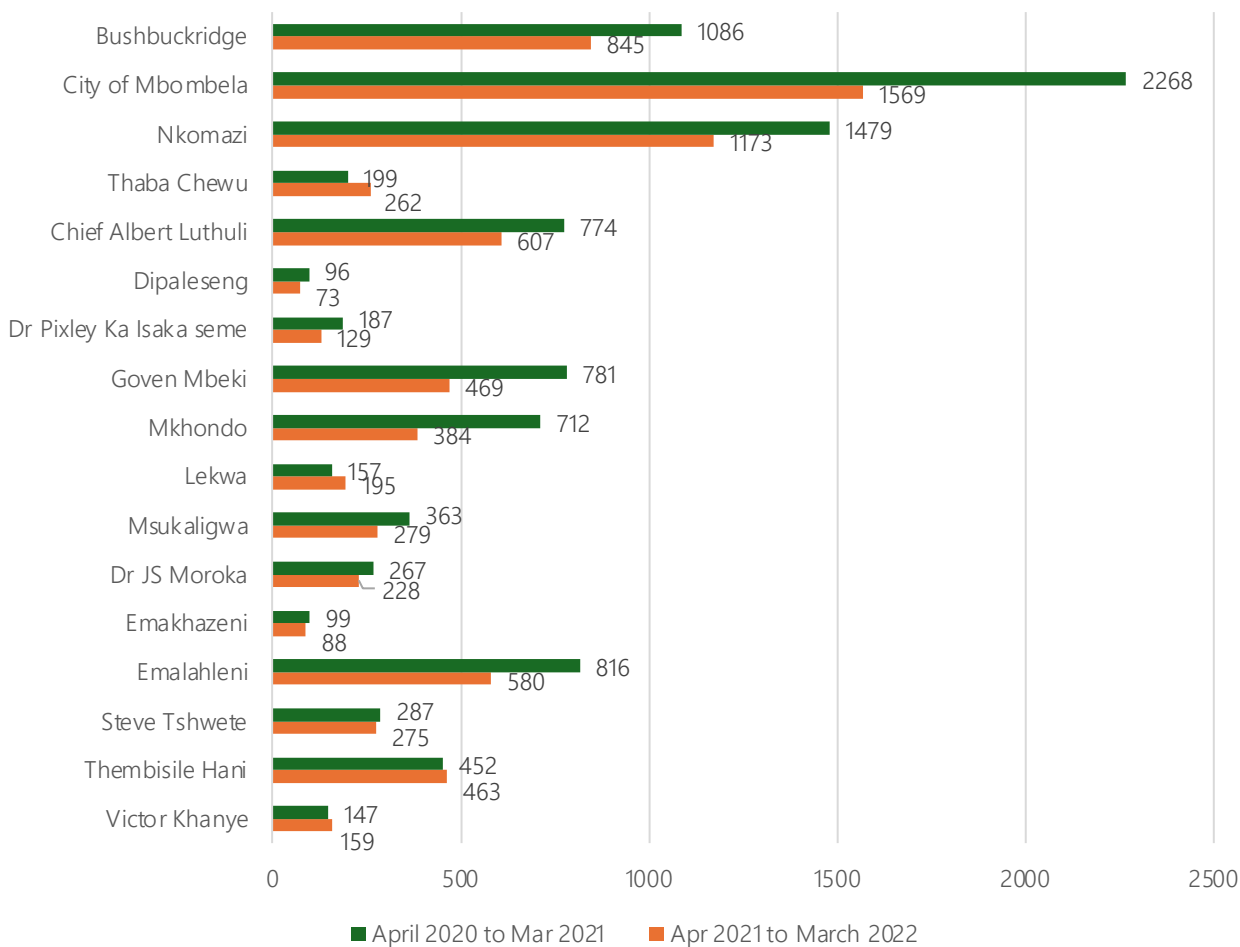
Source: Mpumalanga Department of Health 2008

Figure 50: HIVprevelance by District Municipality in MP 2013-2019



Source: Mpumalanga Department of Health 2019

Figure 51: HIV Prevalence Amongst 15-24 year olds by LM 2020/21 and 2021/22



Source: Mpumalanga Department of Health, 2022

HIV prevalence amongst the age group between 15 and 24 is concerning. This is the age group of youth who had their first sexual experience, young adults as well at high school, university students and those who are supposed to be economically active. Between 2020 and 2022, three municipalities were above the 1000 mark of HIV prevalence. These municipalities are the city of Mbombela with the highest prevalence followed by Nkomazi and then Bushbuckridge. All these municipalities were showing signs of a decreasing prevalence rate with Bushbuckridge going below the 1000 mark of HIV prevalence. At the bottom end of the scale, a number of municipalities were below the 200 mark. These municipalities are, Dipaleseng, Emakhazeni, Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme, Victor Khanye and Lekwa. Thaba Chweu presented signs of an increase beyond the 200 mark of HIV prevalence in the 2021/2022 Financial Year. Other municipalities which indicated signs of increase are Victor Khanye and Thembisile Hani which was above the 200 mark of HIV prevalence.

ART AND VIRAL LOAD SUPPRESSION

A study conducted by Sithole (2013) found that factors contributing to none-adherence to HIV treatment include social support, problems regarding disclosure, employment, economic hardships, traditional and religious beliefs, quality and nature of adherence to counselling and treatment side effects.

In 2017, Mpumalanga Province had 437 000 people on Antiretroviral treatment. The number translates to 65,5% of those diagnosed HIV positive. Mpumalanga was the third after KwaZulu-Natal at 68,8% (1,2 million people) and the Eastern Cape Province 68% (653 000 people). The national average was 62,3% (4,4 million people). Mpumalanga was above the National average by 3,2% (HSRC, 2019.)

Viral load suppression is a measure of ART effectiveness. It is also a good indicator for adherence to treatment and the risk of HIV transmission. If viral load suppression is high, it means that ART is effective. In Mpumalanga, 61,3% of people living with HIV were virally suppressed. Compared to other Provinces in South Africa, Ehlanzeni, Gert Sibande and Ethekeini Districts had the lowest viral suppression rates of 65,3%, 77,4%, and 78,3%, respectively. In 2017, there were 220 111 people on ART in Ehlanzeni and Gert Sibande had 159 161 on ART. Both these Districts were at 67% while the National average stood at 62,3%. Gert Sibande had the highest ART coverage at 81,2%. Regarding people who were living with HIV and knew their status, Ehlanzeni which stood at 90,6%, scored very well on the 90-90-90 assessment (HSRC, 2019).

In 2022, it was estimated that Mpumalanga Province has the fourth largest HIV prevalence with 759 726 people living with HIV and 717 080 people who knew their status. 594 894 people were on ART and 541 056 people had suppressed viral load. The Mpumalanga Province was at 94-83-91 - above in terms of the 90-90-90 targets assessment. 488 828 women were living with HIV while 407 060 were on ART. This translates into 83% of women being on ART. Of the 270 897 men living with HIV, only 187 834 or 69% were on ART in 2022. Of concern is that knowledge of one's status amongst the youth is low (Mtshweni-Tsipane, 2022 and Stats SA 2023).

PREVALENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS IN MPUMALANGA

The number of MDR-TB patients increased between 2013 and 2015 from 884 to 1 139. A 6% reduction was registered between 2015 and 2016. MDR-TB in Mpumalanga was estimated at 93,1 cases per 100 000 people. Ehlanzeni had the highest percentage with 110.5 cases per 100 000 people followed by Gert Sibande at 104.9. Nkangala registered the lowest percentage at 58.5 cases per 100 000 (Lefafa, 2023). Table 22 below sheds some light on the tuberculosis death rate. While earlier figures are not available, in 2022 the death rate was 8.1%. The recovery rate of patients was consistently higher at 77.8% in 2011 and 74,4 in 2022.

Table 22: Tuberculosis death and recovery rates

Indicator	1996	2001	2011	2022
Tuberculosis death rate	Not available	Not available	Not available	8.1%
Tuberculosis recovery rate	Not available	Not available	77.8%	74.4%

DHIS

Mpumalanga seems to have made some commendable strides in the fight against DR TB. In 2017, Nkangala had a DR TB treatment success rate of 60,2 % which was above the National average of 53%. Similarly, in the 2018/19 Financial Year, the DR TB treatment success rate in Ehlanzeni was 61,7% which was above the National average of 49,6%. This success led to the decision to repurpose some TB hospitals in the Province. The affected hospitals were Bongani TB hospital, Barberton TB Hospital, and the Standerton TB Hospital. The repurposing of the three hospitals was informed by, amongst others, effectiveness of treatment and reduced severe side effects such as hearing loss (Lefafa, 2023). The Mpumalanga TB success rates were above the national average in 2022 (Stats SA 2023).

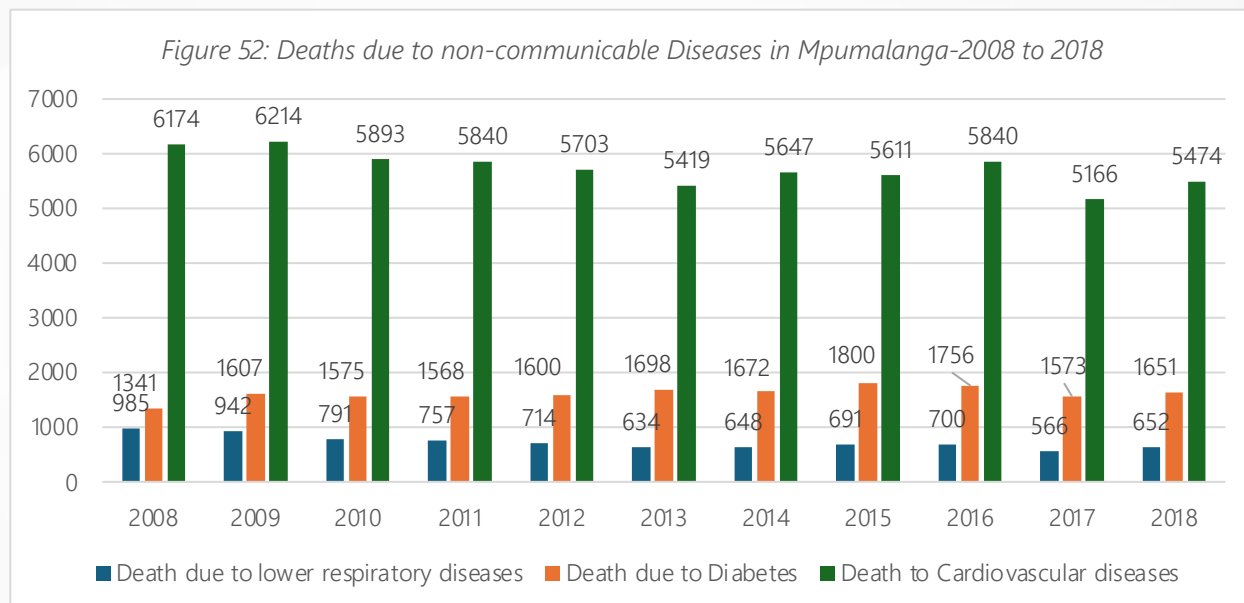
NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES BURDEN

There are a number of communicable diseases which are causing premature deaths in most South Africans and people in Mpumalanga. Chronic diseases are a result of genetic, psychological environmental and behavioural factors. Reasons for these diseases are, amongst others, transition from low-income to middle income status, unhealthy consumption patterns and aging populations. Tobacco use, sedentary lifestyles, the harmful use of alcohol and unhealthy diets which include excess salt and high sugar intake as well as the excessive consumption of fatty foods increase the risk of people dying from non-communicable diseases. In 2022, 61% of men and 26% of women responded that they had consumed alcohol and 26% of men and 5% of women exhibited risky drinking behaviours (Stats SA, 2023).

The number of people who died from lower respiratory diseases in Mpumalanga was higher in 2008 (985) than the previous years. The number of deaths decreased gradually until 2013 when deaths due to lower respiratory diseases decreased to 634. From 2014, there was an increase from 684 to 700 in 2016. 2017 saw a remarkable decrease to the lowest level of 566 before again increasing to 652 in 2018. For the 11-year period (2011-2022) 8 116 people in Mpumalanga died from lower respiratory diseases (Stats SA 2023).

Contrary to the trend observed in deaths caused by lower respiratory diseases, deaths caused by diabetes were increasing between 2008 and 2015 with a few insignificant downward fluctuations. In 2008, 1 341 people died of diabetes followed by an increase to 1 607 in 2009, a low of 1 575 and 1 568 in 2010 and 2011 respectively, was followed by a gradual increase from 1 600 in 2012 to the highest recorded level of 1800 in 2015. This highest level of deaths from diabetes was followed by a decrease to 1 756, 1 573, and 1 651 between 2016 and 2018 (Stats SA 2023)

Deaths from cardiovascular diseases were higher than the other two categories outlined earlier. In 2008, cardiovascular diseases claimed the lives of 6 174 people and then increased to 6 214 in 2009, before moderating to 5 893 in 2010 and the lowest level of 5 166 in 2017. Consistent fluctuations between 2010 and 2018 are indicative of a lifestyle disease that is difficult to eradicate. In a period of 11 years a total of 62 981 people succumbed to deaths caused by cardiovascular diseases. The fight against non-communicable diseases requires cooperation between members of the public and health authorities in Mpumalanga. Health authorities have an important role of educating members of the public about the dangers of unhealthy lifestyles and to offer treatment where education fails and diseases take over. Similarly, members of the public have a responsibility to heed the advice provided by health authorities and adhere to healthy lifestyles by, inter alia, eating right, being conscious of their weight and by exercising regularly (Stats SA 2023).



Source: Stats SA, 2023

UNDER 5 MORTALITY RATE (U5MR) OR CHILD MORTALITY RATE

U5MR is the number of deaths of infants up to the age of five per 1000 births. In 2009, the mortality rate in Mpumalanga for children below the age of 5 years was 56 per 1000 live births. In 2014, the mortality rate figure for this age cohort was reduced to 39 per 1000 live births. Eight years later, in 2022, the mortality rate per 1000 live births decreased further to 30.7 per 1000 live births. Assessing the Under 5 Mortality rate against Provincial aspirations of less than 30 per 1000 live births, the Mpumalanga Province can be commended for successfully reducing and almost achieving the set target before 2030.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE (IMR)

IMR is the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1000 births. A different trend is observed when looking at the infant mortality in comparison with the under 5 cohort. The success registered in the under 5 cohort has not yet been realised in the infant mortality rate. In 2009, the infant mortality rate in Mpumalanga was 39 per 1000 live births. In 2014, the infant mortality rate was reduced to 28 deaths per 1000. In 2022, the infant mortality rate was reduced to 24.3. The target of 20 per 1000 live births has not yet been realised. However, assessing the reduction from 2009, it can be inferred that the target of 20 deaths per 1000 deaths is within reach by 2030.

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE

The maternal mortality rate is of concern. In 2009, there were 304 deaths per 100 000 live births. In 2014 the figure was reduced to 269. In 2020, less than half of the 304 deaths that were recorded in 2009 were subsequently reduced to 109. Although this represents a significant reduction, the target of 70 deaths per 100 000 live births has not been realised but remains within reach by 2030.

MALARIA PREVALENCE

Malaria is a mosquito borne disease that is prevalent in Mpumalanga. Figures in the table below suggest that there were 2770 cases of malaria in 1996. This number rose sharply to 11 282 in 2001 and then decreased to 2955 in 2011 and decreased further in 2022. In 1996 the death rate from malaria was 0,27%. The death rate subsequently decreased to 0,27% before rising to 0,41% in 2011 and 0,54% in 2022. Although the death rate from malaria is below 1% of those infected and can be regarded as insignificant statistically, ideally, deaths from malaria should be eradicated.

Table 23: Malaria prevalence and death rate (1996 – 2022)

Indicator	1996	2001	2011	2022
Malaria prevalence	2 770	11 282	2 955	2 242
Malaria death rate	0.29%	0.27%	0.41%	0.54%

Source: Stats SA, 2023

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa experienced its first case of COVID-19 on March 5, 2020. At the time, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a public health emergency of international concern. By February 28, 2023, the cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in South Africa had risen to 4 063 323, with 3 946 943 recoveries (a 97.1% recovery rate) and 102 595 Covid-related deaths. This translated into a Case Fatality Rate (CFR) of 2.5%. South Africa's COVID-19 recovery rate outperformed the global average.

The Government also implemented a National vaccination campaign, launched on February 17, 2021, nearly a year after the start of the Epidemic, primarily due to difficulties in accessing the vaccine. Approximately 1.25 million healthcare workers were the first to get the Covid-19 vaccine. By August 14, 2023, 22,804,838 people had been vaccinated, with 39 102 367 vaccine doses administered and over 50% of the adult population reached.

LESSONS TOWARDS VISION 2030

Mpumalanga has made some significant strides in improving the quality of health of its citizens. Amongst the successes, challenges were noticeable from the data analysed in this chapter. The overall life expectancy of people in Mpumalanga was below the National average which gave rise to the concern whether Mpumalanga will reach the desired life expectancy of at least 70 years by 2030. The fight against HIV seems to have been successful despite the higher prevalence levels. Mpumalanga experienced the third highest decrease amongst the nine Provinces in South Africa. While success was registered with regards to HIV prevalence, concerns regarding its total eradication still exist. The first concern is that knowledge of status amongst the youth is very low. The second concern is that a lower number of HIV positive men (69%) are on ART compared to 83% of HIV positive women. These two concerns suggest the risk of infections rising is still there. The fight against TB has been a resounding success. Non-communicable diseases remain a major challenge which require education for success to be registered.

In light of the statistics and narrative presented in this chapter, the following recommendations are made:

- Improve knowledge of HIV aids status amongst the 15-19 age group
- Improve the percentage of people living with HIV on ART. Men need particular attention as only 69% of men living with HIV are on ART compared to women living with HIV at 83%
- Target the 15-24-year age group for educational programmes. High schools and tertiary institutions should be made focal points for education;
- Increase the percentage of people living with HIV who know their status to 95%
- Increase viral load suppression to 95%; and
- Initiate educational programmes to counter disease burden and deaths resulting from lifestyle diseases.

CHAPTER [9]

POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL WAGE



The RDP 1994 was aimed at transforming welfare policies, programmes and delivery systems and ensuring that welfare rights are provided to all with a specific focus on the previously disadvantaged majority. The idea was to provide a safety net in the form of cash, or in-kind assistance such as work, food and free health services, to vulnerable and needy citizens.

The social welfare system was fragmented, based on race, gender, and geographical location. Welfare policies, legislation, and programmes were inequitable, inappropriate, and ineffective in addressing poverty and basic human needs. The direct results of these issues were:

- **Fragmentation:** The public sector was fragmented across eleven systems of Government and administration, with deliberate unequal and under-resourced public services in the black urban locations and in the Bantustans - Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Ciskei, Venda, Gazankulu, KaNgwane, Kwa-Ndebele, KwaZulu, Lebowa, and QwaQwa. There was a lack of inter-sectoral collaboration. The social service delivery system was organized along specialist lines and followed a holistic approach. Some social workers were trained and practiced community development, but the approach to service delivery was largely rehabilitative, relying on institutional care and was neither preventative nor developmental. This fragmentation was also reflected in the social welfare legislation and a lack of enabling legislation.
- **Unequal funding:** The budget for welfare services for whites was higher than that for the majority of Africans and the available grants for whites were more abundant than those for black people.
- **Inadequate provision:** Welfare services were not accessible and responsive to the needs of all citizens. There was and still is a lack of personnel to address needs, especially in Provinces with large rural areas. Some categories of personnel were underutilized - a significant proportion of existing personnel were not trained in the developmental approach.
- **Lack of participation and non-responsiveness:** Citizen and stakeholder participation in decision-making regarding social welfare policies, programmes, and priorities were not exercised fully and effectively. This resulted in a lack of legitimacy in the welfare system (National 30-year Review Report, 2023).

Currently, social assistance through the provision of a social wage provides a safety net for the most vulnerable and contributes to the monthly income for a considerable number of South Africans Nationally and within the Mpumalanga Province. Social assistance represents Government's direct cash injection into the pockets of vulnerable people with the aim of fighting poverty.

In addition to the payment of social grants, Government has entered into agreements with several non-Governmental organizations to provide a variety of statutory services which are subsidized. Government has prioritized the implementation of the Children's Act, 2005 (Act No. 38 of 2005) which seeks to protect vulnerable children through protection from child abuse and neglect, foster care, and access to Early Childhood Development Centres. To assess the extent to which the Mpumalanga Province has succeeded over the past 30 years, various categories of social grants are considered. The prevalence of income inequality in the Province is considered using the Gini-coefficient as an indicator. Household incomes and related sources of income form the basis of the analysis in this chapter.

PROVINCIAL ASPIRATIONS

Various policies pronounce on the implementation of the social wage. These policies include amongst others, the RDP, the NDP 2030 and the MP V2030. ***These policies envisage the following:***

- All children must enjoy social services which include, amongst others, nutrition, social care and safety
- Provision of social grants and other aspects of social wage
- Increase the supply of social service professionals (social workers, auxiliary and assistant social workers, community development workers, as well as child and youth care workers)
- Identify the main elements of a comprehensive food security and nutrition strategy and launch such a campaign
- Pilot mechanisms and incentives to assist the unemployed to access the labour market
- Expand existing public employment initiatives to create opportunities for the unemployed; and
- Development of an integrated social security administration.

LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

In response to a history characterized by dispossession, inequalities of services, benefits and treatment, the democratic Government overhauled myriad pieces of racist legislation. Several policies and programmes to transform people's lives, effect redress, justice, equity and poverty eradication, were introduced.

Supported by the South African Constitution of 1996 as a base document that anchors the entirety of the social wage and support for the advancement of the fundamental human rights, overarching policies and legislative frameworks were introduced. Policy and legislation passed to improve the well-being of the populace and establish a foundation of developmental social welfare minimum norms and standards for all nine Provinces include:

- The 1994 White Paper on Population and Development which places emphasis on the shift to a sustainable human development paradigm with population at the centre of all development strategies
- The 1997 White Paper on Social Welfare called on the populace to develop together with the state, an equitable, people-centred, democratic, and appropriate social welfare system
- The White Paper on Families revised in 2013 seeks to mainstream family issues into Government-wide, policy-making initiatives and to foster positive family well-being and overall socio-economic development in the country

LEGISLATION PASSED TO PROTECT THE MOST VULNERABLE INCLUDE:

- The Social Service Professions Act, 1978: This Act regulates the registration of social and associated workers; and for control over the profession of social work.
- The Child Justice Act, 2008 aims to establish a criminal justice system in accordance with the values underpinning the Constitution and the international obligations of the Republic, for those children who transgress the law and are accused of committing offences.
- The Children's Act, 2005 (Act No. 38 of 2005) sets out the principles relating to the care and protection of children. The Children's Amendment Act of 2023 amends and inserts certain definitions to provide for Children's Rights to privacy and protection of information; provides for: (i) the rights of unmarried fathers; (ii) extension of childhood development programmes; (iii) designation of functions

for a Registrar of the National Child Protection Register; (iv) care of abandoned or orphaned children and additional matters that may be regulated; (v) rules relating to care and protection proceedings; (vi) medical testing of children in need of care and protection or adoption; (vii) matters relating to adoption and intercountry adoption; (viii) hearing of child abduction matters; and (ix) surrogate motherhood.

- The Older Persons Act, 2006 (Act No. 13 of 2006) provides the South African Policy for Older Persons and the accompanying South African Plan of Action were developed to place older persons high on the country's agenda and emphasizes the protection, care, support, and development of older persons as a joint responsibility between Government, civil society, and the corporate sector. Others key pieces of legislation and policies which supported transformation of the social developmental welfare space include the National Drug Master Plans iterations first developed in 1999 which seeks to outline all National concerns in drug control and summarizing National policies, and priorities for drug control; the Anti-Substance Abuse Policy; the National Policy Guidelines for Victim Empowerment; etc.

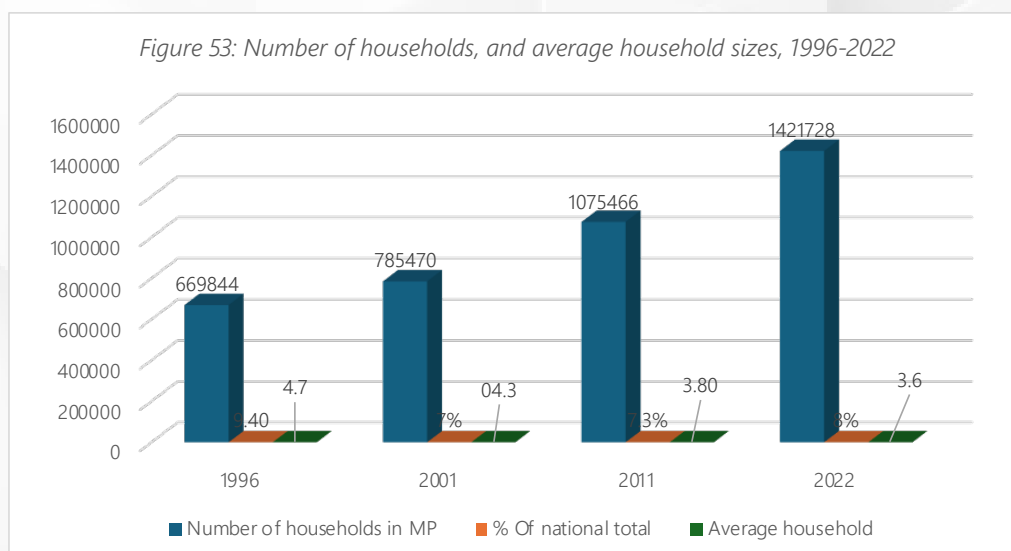
International Instruments on Social Protection that South Africa adopted and or ratified post-1994 include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) - Articles 22 and 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948); The Convention on the Rights of the Child; the Social Protection Floors Recommendation (2012); the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Provision to Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) who assist in delivering welfare services is enabled by the Non-Profit Organizations Act, 1997 (Act No. 71 of 1997) and supported by the National Development Agency (NDA) established through the National Development Agency Act, 1998 (Act No. 108 of 1998) to promote an appropriate and sustainable partnership between the Government and civil society organizations to eradicate poverty and its causes.

MILESTONES AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

MPUMALANGA HOUSEHOLDS

The Mpumalanga Province's households in 1996 were 669 844. This represented 7,4% of the number of National households. The number of households increased to 785 470 (7,0%) in 2001 and then to 1 075 466 (7,3%) in 2011. In 2022, households in Mpumalanga were estimated to be just over 1.4 million or 8.0% of the National total. Mpumalanga registered the fourth lowest share among the nine Provinces. Gauteng's recorded 29.8% of households has the largest share of South Africa's households, followed by KwaZulu Natal with a 16.0% share. Northern Cape at 1.9% recorded the lowest percentage share of households. Mpumalanga's household number increased by 346 233 from 1.08 million in 2011 and its share of the National total increased by 0.6%. The average household size decreased consistently from 1996 to 2022. In 1996, the average household size was 4,7 members and subsequently decreased to 4,3 in 2001, 3,8 in 2011 and 3,6 in 2022 (see figure 53 below).



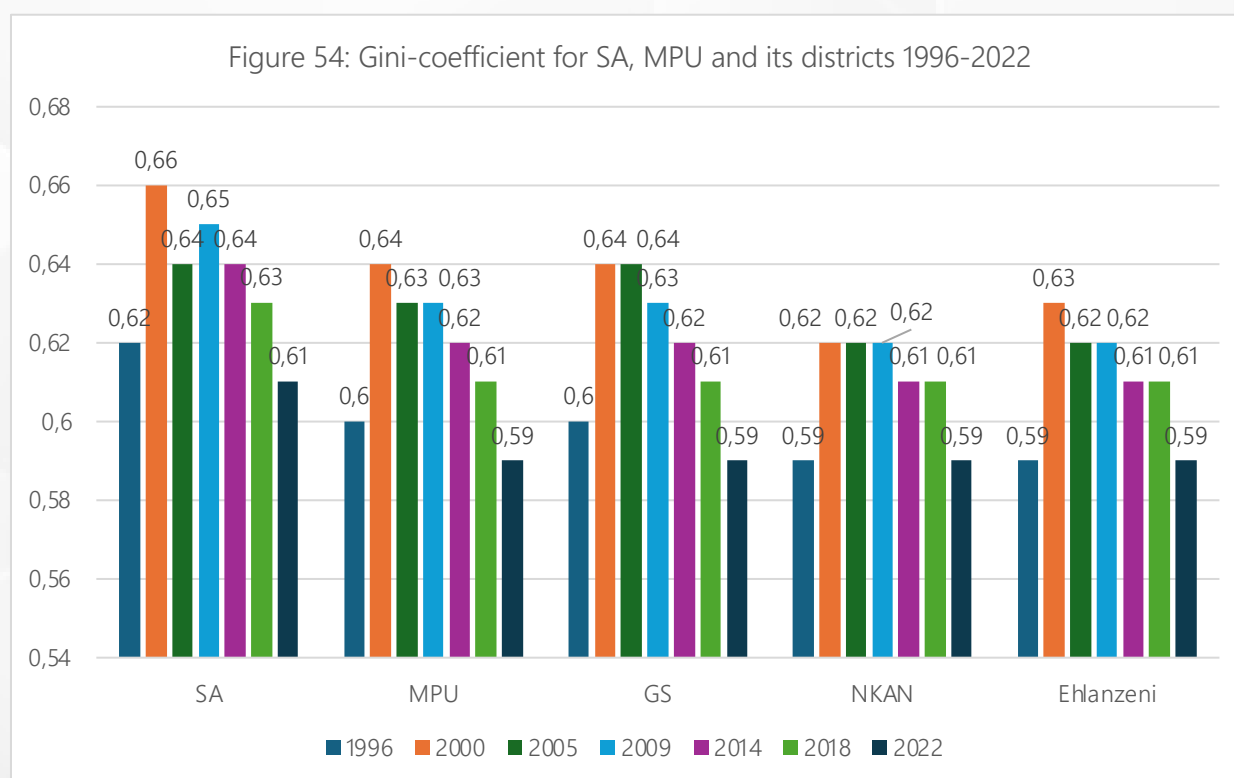
Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2022

INCOME INEQUALITY

The Gini-coefficient is one of the most used measures to gauge income inequality. The Gini coefficient is derived from the Lorenz curve, which is a graphical depiction of income distribution. The Lorenz curve is a graphical representation of the relationship between the cumulative percentage of income and the percentage of population. The coefficient varies from 0 (in the case of perfect equality where all households earn equal income) to 1 (in the case where one household earns all the income).

South Africa has one of the highest imbalanced income distributions in the world. In 2011, the NDP 2030 estimated that the Gini-coefficient of South Africa should be reduced from 0.69 to 0.6. Ten years later, the National Gini coefficient was calculated to be 0.61 in 2022. The most recent National Gini-coefficient level only reflects a slightly less unequal income distribution than was the case in 1996. Income inequality has declined/improved steadily between 2009 and 2022.

The Provincial income distribution followed the National trend and was slightly less unequal in 2022 (0.59) than in 1996 (0.60). Similar to the National situation, the Provincial income inequality also remained declined/improved steadily between 2009 and 2022. Among the Provinces, Mpumalanga (0.59) registered the joint second lowest level of income inequality in 2022, with Limpopo at 0.58, experiencing the lowest income inequality and Free State (0.61) the highest income inequality. In 2022, all three Districts registered Gini-coefficients of 0.59, which indicates that inequality improved in Gert Sibande whilst it remained unchanged in Nkangala and Ehlanzeni.



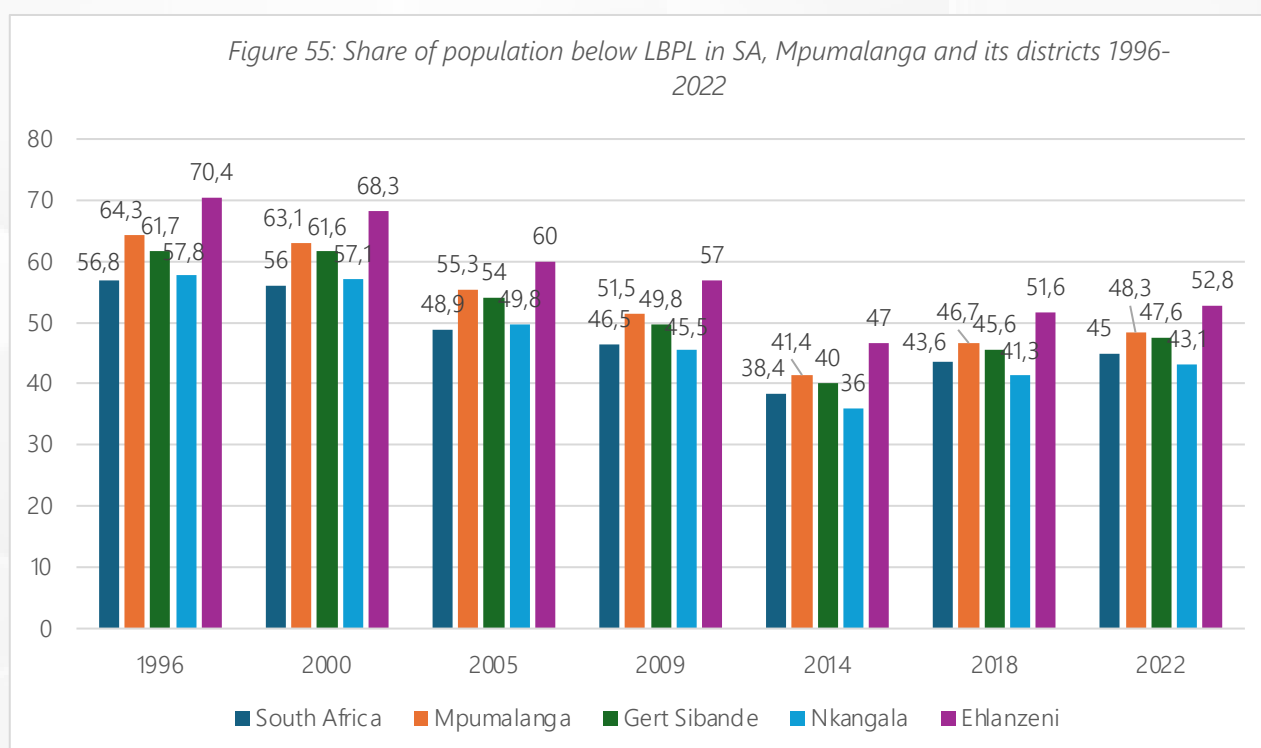
Source: Socio-economic Review and outlook input for 2024/25 EPRE, 29 February 2024

POVERTY

Lifting more people out of poverty is the best indicator of the quality of life in a country or a Province such as Mpumalanga. Poverty can be assessed using three levels. These levels or poverty lines can be described as the food poverty line (FPL), lower-bound poverty line (LBPL) and upper-bound poverty line (UBPL). For purposes of this report the food poverty line and the lower-bound poverty

lines are used to assess progress made in the reduction of poverty. The NDP 2030 envisages that the LBPL poverty must be reduced to zero by 2030. Mpumalanga's LBPL status improved from 64.3% in 1996 to 48.3% in 2020. Although South Africa and Mpumalanga registered an improvement over the 30-year period, the share of population below the LBPL increased between 2014 and 2022 (DEDT, 2024).

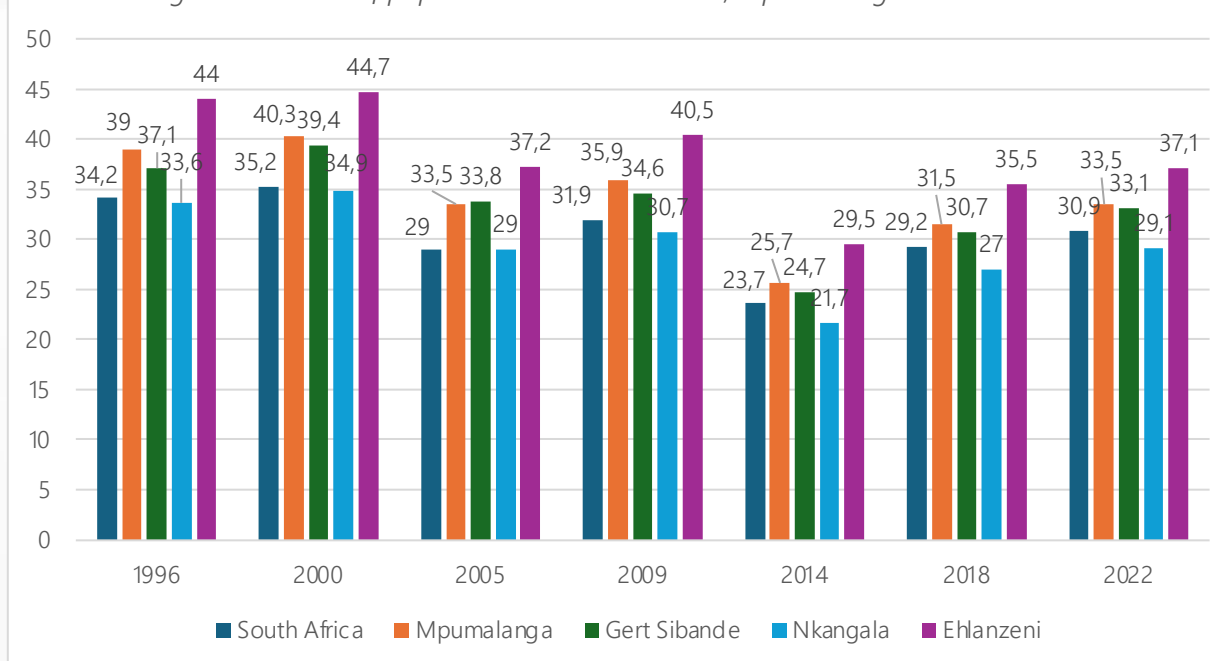
Figure 55 below provides an overview of poverty at National level, Mpumalanga Province and the three Districts in Mpumalanga Province. Data contained in this table shows that at National level, South Africa was able to reduce poverty from a high of 56,8% in 1996 to 45,0% in 2022. Mpumalanga's lower-bound poverty level has consistently been higher than the National average. In 1996, the Province was at 64,3% and reduced poverty gradually to reach 41,4 in 2014. These gains were short-lived as the Province's poverty level started increasing again from 46,7% in 2018 and to 48,3% in 2022. Gert Sibande District Municipality was also consistently above the National average. The Nkangala District registered some success in 2009 with a decrease to 45,5% and a 2014 reduction to 36,0% and slight increase to 41,3% by being the only District to reduce poverty below the National average. The Nkangala District Municipality subsequently increased to 43,1% becoming worse off by 2%. Ehlanzeni, the most populated District, had the highest level of people under LBPL at 70,4% in 1996. The Districts reduced poverty to a lower level of 46,6% in 2014. The 2018 and 2022 data reflect an increase to 51,6% and 52,8% respectively.



Source: Socio-economic Review and outlook input for 2024/25 EPRE, 29 February 2024

The food poverty level is the most concerning in South Africa and Mpumalanga Province. This level of poverty means that people in this category cannot afford the basic physiological need for food supply to survive. Figure 56, like figure 55, provides data between 1996 reflecting percentages of population in Mpumalanga Province classified within the food poverty level between 1996 and 2022. When assessing the FPL, the Province is again found to be above the National average of between 34% in 1996 and 30,9% in 2022. The Province was able to reduce levels of food poverty from 39,0% to 25,7% in 2014 then increasing again to 31,5% and 33,5% in 2018 and 2022 respectively. Gert Sibande District Municipality consistently remained above the National average between 1996 and 2022. Nkangala District was the shining star of the Mpumalanga Province as it consistently remained below or on par with the National average. The District Municipality was also consistently below the Provincial average.

Figure 56: Share of population below FPL in SA, Mpumalanga and its districts



Source: Socio-economic Review and outlook input for 2024/25 EPRE, 29 February 2024

Having analysed the data relating to poverty in the Province, the most important question that needs to be answered at this stage is whether the National Government and the Province will achieve the objective of zero poverty by 2030 as envisaged in the NDP 2030. Looking at the trends suggested by the data at hand, it can be inferred that with the increasing levels of poverty witnessed from 2018, zero poverty by 2030 may not be achieved. This inference considers the economic downturn precipitated by the Covid-19 epidemic which was at its peak in 2020 and 2021.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND SOURCES

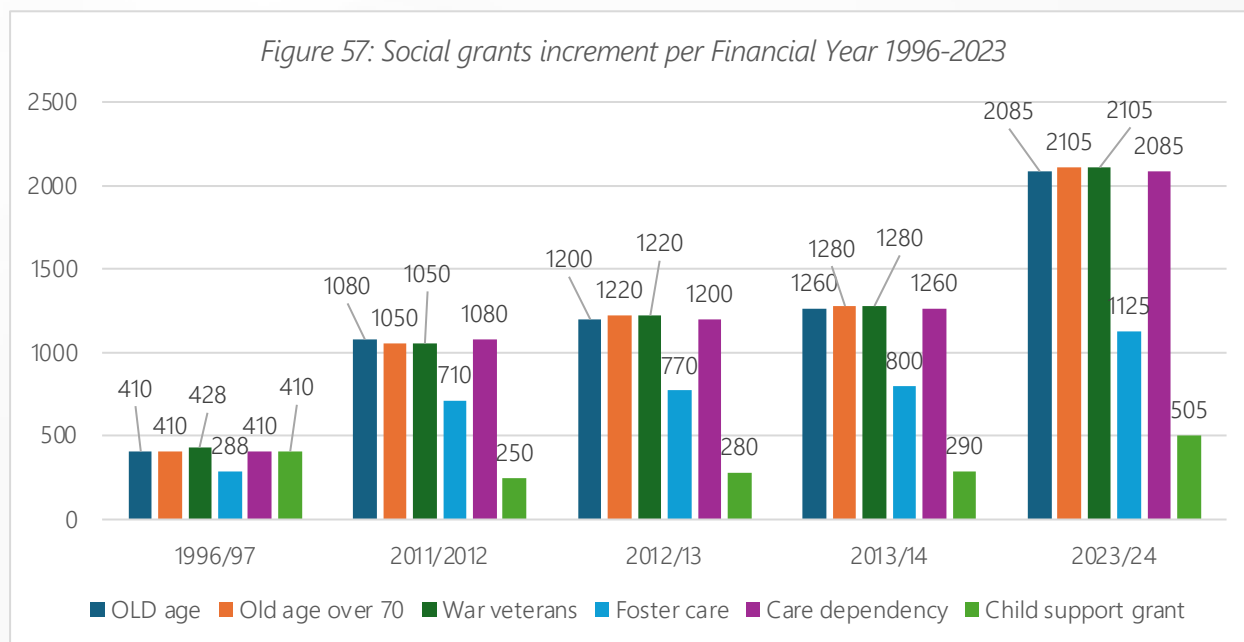
Annual household income in Mpumalanga in 2001 was R31 186. In 2011, the household income increased to R77 606. For these two census years, Mpumalanga was fifth from the bottom with Limpopo being the lowest and the Eastern Cape Province being the second lowest. In 2014/15, Mpumalanga household income increased to R107 561.

Most households in South Africa are dependent on incomes from salaries. 59.7% of households received income from salaries in 2022. In Mpumalanga, 37.6% of households received income from salaries. Most households received income from grants (62.4%) in Mpumalanga. Apart from salaries and social grants, people in Mpumalanga received 18,8% from businesses, 17,0 from remittances and 2,5% from pensions.

THE SOCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANT

Social grants payments to deserving vulnerable members of the public have proven to be one of the ways in which Government can reduce poverty and ensure that the majority of members of the public and their families do not go to bed hungry. In 1994, seven categories of social grants were in existence. In the 1996/7 Financial Year social grants disbursements were, as per the table below, R410 for old age, War Veterans R428, child support R410, care dependency R410, and foster care R288. The child support grant gradually changed the age limit to 18. The Old age grant was R390 in 1994 (Brockenhoff, 2013). The amount payable to the aged has since improved to R2085 in the 2023/24 Financial Year. It has remained above the upper bound of poverty while the foster care grant is below the lower bound of poverty (South African News Agency, 2023).

In the 2009/10 Financial Year, 1 009 000 individuals were receiving at least one category of social grants as per the figure below. The number rose to 1 069 000 in 2010/11 and 1 178 000 in the 2017/2018 Financial Years. At the end of February 2024, 1 233 681 individuals were receiving social grants in Mpumalanga (SASSA, 2024).



Source: Compilation from various sources: Brockenhof, 2013; Tanga and Tanga, 2014; South Africa Government news Agency, 2023 & SASSA, 2024

INDIRECT SOCIAL WAGE

The social wage provided to qualifying members of the public does not always have to be in the form of cash payable. It can also manifest in the subsidisation of several social services. Amongst these services, the care for abused children and women is an indication of a caring Government for the most vulnerable members of the society. In the 2010/11 Financial Year, there were 4000 children placed in foster care in Mpumalanga. The number of placements in foster care increased to 5443 in the 2011/12 Financial Year and further increased to 5645 in the 2012/13 Financial Year. The Province saw a decrease in foster care placements in the 2014/2015 Financial Year. Placements of children in foster care further declined to 3584 (Mpumalanga DSD, 2015).

The social wage may also manifest in the form of the waiver of school fees for destitute learners or designation of no-fee schools in poorer communities. In 2007, Mpumalanga Province had 404 431 learners who were in 983 no-fee schools. This number constitute 42,2% of schools. In 2012, the number of no-fee paying learners increased to 856 314 in 1625 no-fee paying schools which accounted for 81,2%. The no-fee paying schools is a success when viewed from the perspective of the indirect social wage. Coupled with the school nutrition Programme, the efforts represent effective ways in which the Mpumalanga Province can uplift the quality of life through the indirect social wage (National Treasury, ND).

CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS TOWARDS 2030

The number of households in the Mpumalanga Province have more than doubled in the past 30 years. Households increased from 669 844 in 1996 to 1 421 728 in 2022. The increase in the number of households require more services and goods to be provided. On the other hand, the average size of the household has steadily decreased from an average of 4,7 members in 1996 to 3,6 in 2022. A positive sign in the Mpumalanga Province is the Gini-coefficient which has improved from 0.60 in 1996 to 0.59 in 2022 as an indication of the closing of income gaps. Another positive sign is the increase in the average annual income from R31 186 to an average of R107 561. While this growth may seem significant, it is watered down by inflation and associated increases in the cost of living. The payments of social grants have been a success nationally and also within the Province. Social grants represent a service that is universal. Most categories of the social grants have increased just above the poverty line except the child support grant which remains below the poverty line. Indirect social grants received little attention in this chapter as most of these types of social grants are spread into other services covered in other chapters of this report.

The following recommendations are made:

- To improve the overall quality of life, reliance on Social grants need to be decreased progressively over time; and
- Child support grants that is below the poverty line is not sustainable. The Province needs to find other creative ways of supplementing the child support grant.

CHAPTER *[10]*

LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT



This section outlines how the Province of Mpumalanga performed over the 30 years regarding rural development interventions and access to land as resources for improving rural living standards and giving effect to the constitutionally entrenched rights of people. It provides highlights of key policies that guided the implementation of the strategic plans, key indicators achieved, and the identified challenges. The challenges facing rural areas have been the underutilisation and/or unsustainable use of natural resources; and poor or lack of access to socio-economic infrastructure. This section highlights the strides made with regard to agriculture, food security, SMMEs, and economic opportunities. Post-1994, development frameworks such as the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP), MP V2030 and NDP 2030 have prioritised rural development objectives and service delivery targets and programmes. The section also outlines the environmental management, and how these sectors contributed to the economy of the Province.

NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ASPIRATIONS

After 30 years, fragmentation and uneven development characterise the country's rural landscape. Rural areas of the former homelands continue to lag behind the rest of the country in terms of quality of life, service delivery infrastructure and economic prosperity (National 30-year Review Report, 2023).

In line with the NDP 2030 vision of South Africa's Vision 2030, the MP Vision 2030 goal has been to create thriving rural communities that are vibrant, equitable, and sustainable. The Province strived to ensure that all individuals living in rural areas have access to nutritious food, economic opportunities, and social services. By 2030, the Mpumalanga Provincial Government aims to have achieved the following targets:

- 100% access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food;
- 50% reduction in rural poverty and inequality;
- 30% increase in rural economic growth and job creation;
- 100% access to basic services such as water, sanitation, and electricity;
- 50% increase in rural women's economic empowerment and participation; and
- 30% increase in rural youth employment and entrepreneurship.

Agrarian transformation means the rapid and fundamental change in the relations (systems and patterns of ownership and control) of land, livestock, cropping and community. This entails improving the productivity, economic viability, and sustainability of small and large farm enterprises. It focuses on, but is not limited to, the establishment of rural business initiatives, agro-industries, cooperatives, and vibrant local markets in rural settings, the empowerment of rural people and communities (especially women and youth); and seeks to transform power relations.

LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

The NDP 2030 confirmed key rural development imperatives and committed the Government to land transfers, agricultural sector reforms, smallholder farmer support and agricultural employment targets. Key interventions included the establishment of rural business initiatives, agro-industries, cooperatives, cultural initiatives and vibrant local markets in rural settings; the empowerment of rural people and communities (especially women and youth); and the revitalisation of old and revamping of new economic, social, information and communication infrastructure, public amenities and facilities in villages and small rural towns.

Post-1994 the South African Government promulgated land laws in its endeavour to redress access to land through land restitution and tenure reforms. To effect land reform, the Government adopted the Restitution of Land Rights Act in 1994 and the Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Act in 1996. The Restitution of Land Rights Act, 1994 (Act No. 22 of 1994), provides for the restitution of rights to land to people or communities dispossessed of such rights after 19 June 1913 due to past racially discriminatory laws or practices.

Land reform focuses on fast-tracking the completion of the land reform and restitution programmes while ensuring adequate pre- and post-settlement support (agricultural and otherwise) to boost rapid and successful rural development. Several programmes were introduced to support smallholder producers. Financing, institution-building, and capacity-enhancing programmes and initiatives include the Agrarian Transformation Strategy of 2012, the Rural Development Policy Framework of 2013, the InterGovernmental Relations and Stakeholder Management Strategy (2018), and the Rural Enterprise and Industry Development Programme.

The Provincial Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land, and Environmental Affairs developed various strategies and interventions supporting the transformation of the sector and increase in production and agro-processing. The National Economic Growth Path informed the MEGDP. The focus of job creation in the Agricultural, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Mining sectors was driven by significant growth in skilled, knowledge, information and service jobs (non-labour absorbing) and a decline in low-skilled, process and manual work (labour absorbing) jobs. The MEGDP will focus on reversing this trend towards a shared and inclusive economy.

The Province has great agricultural potential and an absolute advantage in many agricultural commodities. To ensure meaningful contribution and food security for all, the Province has, through the relevant Provincial Department, developed strategies intended to take advantage and exploit that potential. One of the game changers has been the introduction of and development of focused Greening Mpumalanga initiatives. This is a value chain approach that focuses on the Vegetable Food Basket in Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality, Fruit Basket in Ehlanzeni and Gert Sibande District Municipalities, and the Grain Corridor in Nkangala District Municipality.

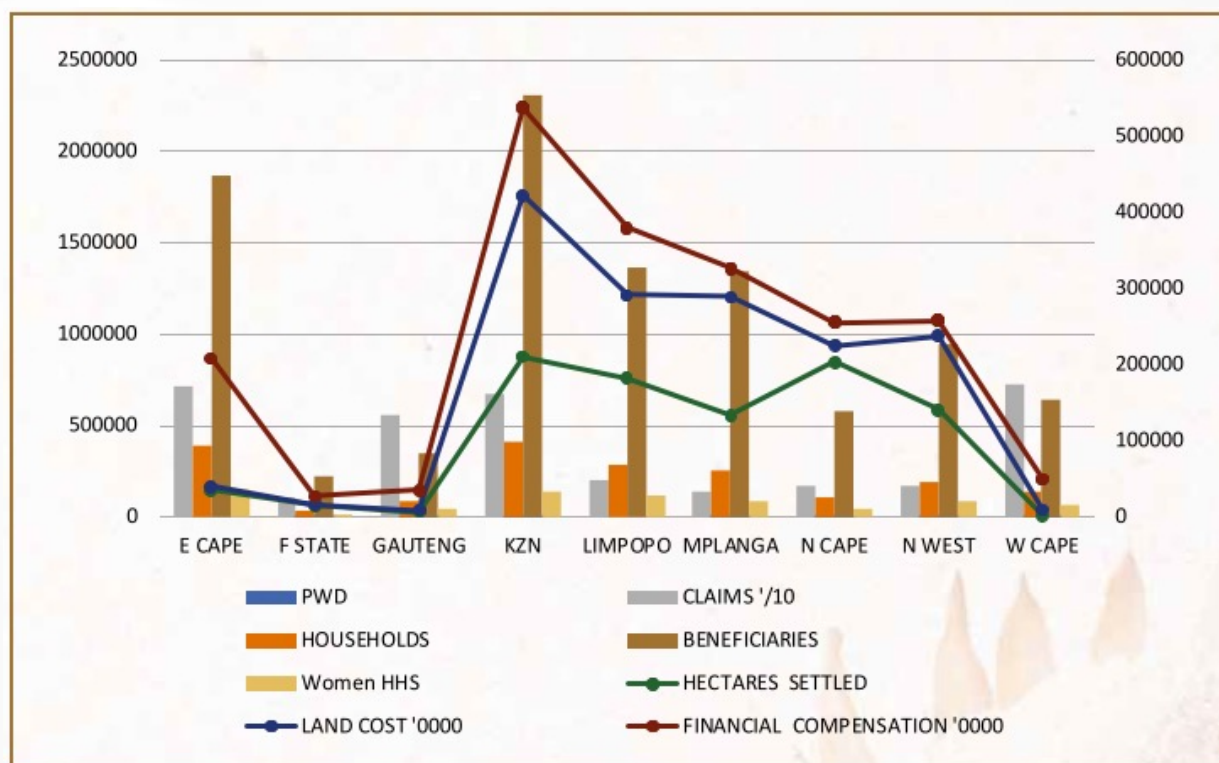
MILESTONES AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

After three decades of democracy, participation in the farming and agriculture sector remains predominantly skewed towards white commercial farmers, with males comprising the majority. The agricultural sector plays an essential role in the fight against poverty and securing food security for the people of Mpumalanga. The role of agriculture in supplying employment to unskilled workers, ensuring food security to rural people and stimulating other sectors in the value chain, such as manufacturing and trade makes it an important sector towards attaining growth and development.

LAND RESTITUTION PROGRAMME

Mpumalanga is amongst the 5 Provinces with the lowest number of submitted land claims. However, it has the fifth highest number of hectares settled.

Figure 58: Land restitution: Claims, hectares settled, land costs & financial compensation (1995-2023)



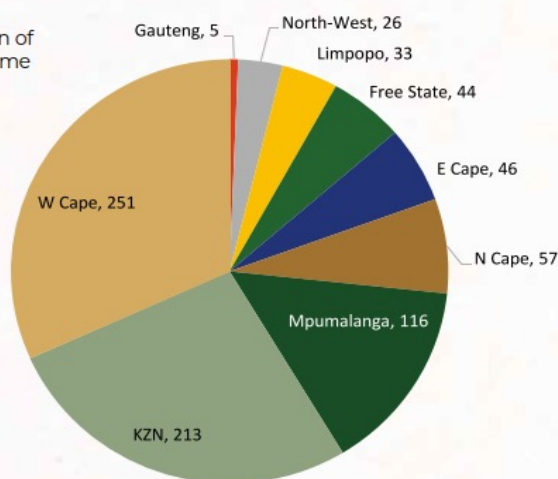
Source: adapted from the data from DALRRD CRLR Land Claims Commission July 2023

SECURITY OF TENURE

Mpumalanga is the Province with the third highest land claim applications outstanding.

Figure 59: Hectares of land restitution of Land Restitution Programme 1997-2022

Figure 60:
Hectares of land restitution of
Land Restitution Programme
1997-2022



Source:
DPME adapted from
DALRRD report

The Province has put much emphasis on supporting targeted groups, which are youth, women, and people with disabilities. The Land Restitution Programme has introduced the Smart Agricultural Boxes, which have proven to be effective to assist people who have challenges with water and land access and people with disabilities. This technology is being favoured by young people, due to its smartness. It has been rolled out to youth projects, schools, and people with disabilities. To date, it has benefited youth cooperatives, schools, churches, and projects for people with disabilities. Most of these projects encouraged the involvement of youth, women, and people with disabilities.

The Province has, through the Provincial Department focused on increasing food production within the three farmer categories namely, subsistence, smallholder and commercial farming. This is an effort to address the triple challenges affecting society, which are poverty, unemployment, and inequality. Producers of agricultural commodities were assisted through the provision of mechanisation, supply of agricultural production inputs and the offering technical advice.

The Provincial strategic investment in agricultural infrastructure development, including the establishment of critical agricultural facilities, has had a positive effect on agricultural output. Emphasis was placed on rural development initiatives aimed at empowering smallholder farmers and rural communities, including access to resources, markets and infrastructure development.

The following indicators have been work in progress: increase smallholder farmers in commercial farming, strengthen extension and advisory services for improved production and productivity, assist farmers in applying for RTOs, assist farmers in acquiring title deeds, facilitate the formation of marketing cooperatives and other marketing entities, and facilitate processes for market linkages.

Food security indicators included the establishment of gardens to enable at least 30% of poor households to produce some of their food and improve income.

Over the 30 years of democracy, agricultural production was dominated by summer cereals (sunflower seed, sorghum, dry beans, soybeans) and legumes (potatoes, cotton and maize) in the Highveld region, while subtropical and citrus fruit and sugar were grown extensively in the Lowveld. Fruit farming included apples, peaches, citrus, nuts and subtropical fruit, such as mangoes, litchis, avocado and pears.

The Census 2022 indicates that the number of agricultural households in Mpumalanga has increased from 9,1% in 2011 to 10,4% in 2022, whilst the number of non-agricultural households has also increased by 0,6% from 7% in 2011 to 7,6% in 2022. Mpumalanga is number 5 in the list of Provinces with a high number of households practicing livestock and poultry farming. However, with regard to grains, food crops and industrial crops, it comes fourth after Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape. Mpumalanga is the fifth highest with a number of households with agricultural activity in their backyards, farm land and communal land, after KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Eastern Cape and Gauteng - delete as this is a repetition of the preceding sentence. Of the 256 105 households in Mpumalanga engaged in agricultural activity, only 3.7% are producing only for sale, 6.2% mainly for sale with some own consumption, 6.0% mainly for own consumption with some sales and 83.9% for own consumption. This is indicative of the high poverty levels in the Province.

FORESTRY

Over the 30 years of democracy, Mpumalanga has been the country's major forestry production area and accounted for 22.8% of South Africa's forestry and logging GVA. Approximately 39 of the 148 primary processing plants in the country are located in the Province, including the continent's largest integrated pulp, paper and softwood mill at Ngodwana. Over R9.5 billion has been invested in the Province's forestry industry.

Mpumalanga Province has extensive commercial forests and sophisticated processing plants dealing with everything from sawn logs, pulp and paper to board. The Province has South Africa's biggest sawmill, its largest panel and board plant, and the biggest integrated pulp and paper mill in Africa.

The Province has the ideal climate and topography for forests. The north-eastern sector of the Province around Sabie and Graskop is regarded as the hub of the industry, but commercial forests are also found along the Province's eastern border with Swaziland. The commercial forest sector offers attractive business opportunities for small-scale entrepreneurs, particularly growers, contractors and saw-millers.

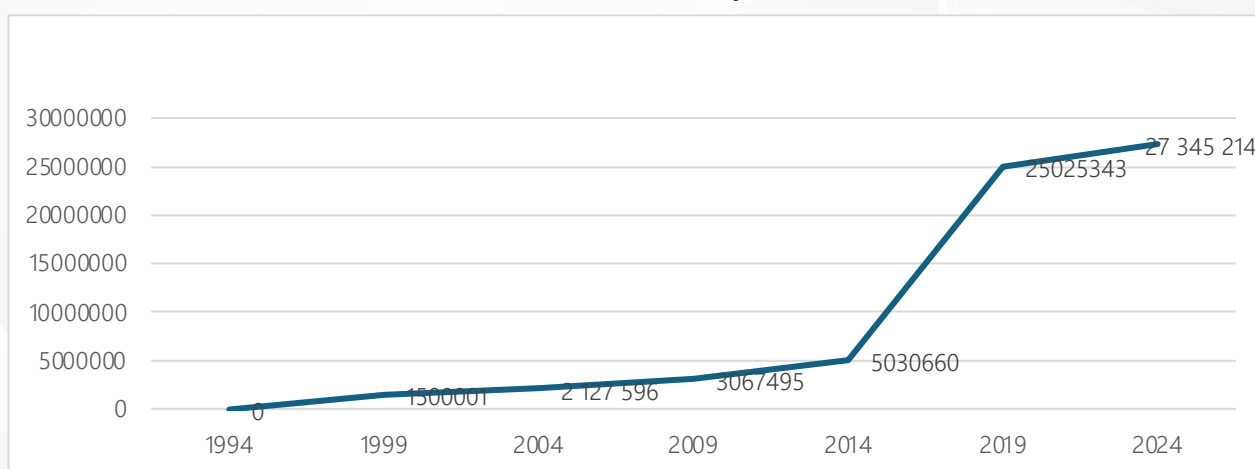
The Province of Mpumalanga has been the National leader in terms of total hectares under forest (514,000) and export earnings from within the sector. Mpumalanga accounts for 40% of the total forestry income of the country. About 11% of the Province is forested, with 4% of that being natural forest. The 7% of the Province that is commercially run represents 40% of South Africa's commercial forest stock.

Change in land area covered by forest in 2010 was at 66.94% natural (excluding old lands and mines) and had reduced to 64.92% by 2020. This represents a 2.02% loss of natural areas over 10 years. The natural area includes savannahs and grasslands, discounting forests since they are not a major vegetation type in Mpumalanga. Loss of indigenous forest is not recorded.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

In the past 30 years, Mpumalanga Province has contributed to environmental management by treating hazardous waste through an increase in tonnes treated from 1999 to 2024, being 1 500 001 to 25 025 343 tonnes (see Figure 60).

Figure 60: Volume of hazardous waste recovered or recycled, treated, 1994-2024



Source: Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs 2024 report

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Over the past 30 years, R17 billion has been set aside and spent to improve infrastructure for water and sanitation from various grants, including the MIG, RBIG, WSIG and IUDG.

MPUMALANGA GREEN ECONOMY

Over 120 IPP renewable energy contracts were in place by November 2018, of which five are in Mpumalanga Province (DoE, 2018). The combined installed capacity of these five projects is 45MW, generated by a small hydropower, and four biomass power projects, together accounting for 0.68% of the installed capacity for renewable energy projects secured under IPP contracts across South Africa (DoE, 2018). Hydropower was one of the earliest technologies used to generate electricity in the Mpumalanga Province.

The energy intensity fluctuated over the reporting period but experienced an overall decreasing trend: 0.56 MJ/Rand in 2009; 0.59MJ/Rand in 2010; 0.54MJ/Rand in 2014, 0.58MJ/Rand in 2015; and 0.54 MJ/Rand in 2019.

As energy intensity in Mpumalanga has decreased (improved) by 12.19% from 2007 to 2017, the total consumption of electricity increased (in line with the strengthening economy). The patterns of consumption are influenced by energy intensity, e.g. a reduction in energy intensity could be attributed to more energy-efficient technology deployed and/or improvement in consumer behaviour.

Mpumalanga benefited from Liquid Telecom's investment in services in 2019. Multiple countries invest in Bio Power Operations Corporation (HYFI)/ POWGEX Energy. As of 2023, Projects headed for Mpumalanga included renewable power generation; POWGEX-HYFI accounts for R45.5 billion in Mpumalanga. The majority of announced investments by value were destined for Mpumalanga and Western Cape, putting Mpumalanga on the map. Europe was the second largest source of investment with announcements from the region amounting to R63.2 billion, with the majority directed to renewable energy generation.

NEW GREEN ECONOMY PROJECTS

Various projects have been commissioned as part of Mpumalanga's drive to transition to the green economy. The Busby Renewables Biomass Project, Ngodwana Energy Project, Malalane Mill, and Komati Mill Biomass Projects are included under the REIPPPP and contracted to deliver a combined total of 42MW electricity to the National grid per annum.

Environmental authorisation has been granted by DEA for the Barberton Biomass Energy Project, with a capacity of 8.5MW, in the City of Mbombela Local Municipality in the Ehlanzeni District Municipality (DEA, 2019). The environmental authorisation process for a 62MW Green Energy Power Project, at Ngodwana Mill, within the City of Mbombela Local Municipality in the Ehlanzeni District Municipality is underway (DEA, 2019).

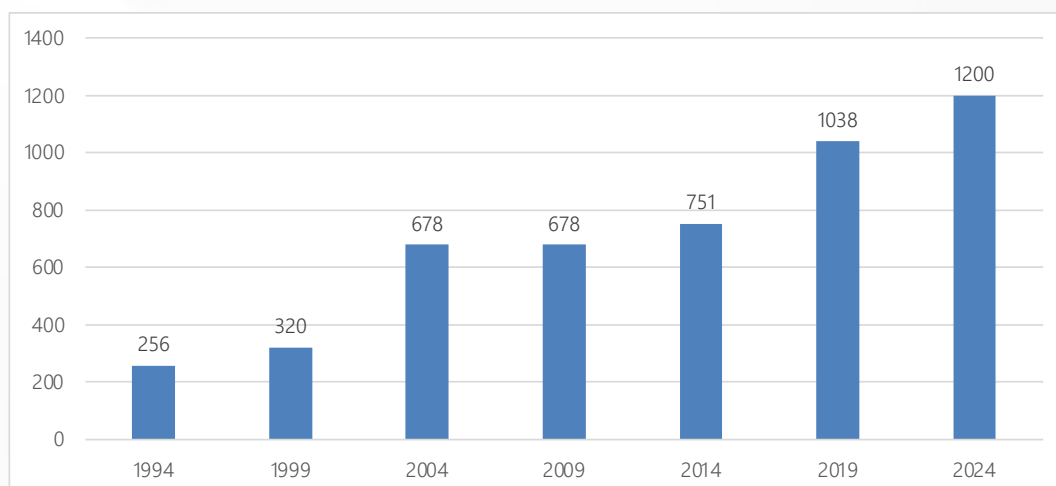
Environmental authorisations for co-generation facilities have been granted by DEA for a 15MW back pressure turbo alternator at Komati Mill, near Malelane in Mpumalanga, and 45MW energy recovery plants at Samancor Chrome Middelburg Ferrochrome Plant and Samancor Chrome Ferrometals Plant, in Emalahleni (DEA, 2019). The environmental authorisation process for the Sabie Site co-generation facility (30MW), within the Ehlanzeni District Municipality, and the Nokukhanya energy plant (50MW), in Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, is underway (DEA, 2019).

Environmental authorisations for establishing a 99MW Haverfontein wind energy facility, near Carolina, in the Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality within the Gert Sibande District Municipality has been granted by the DEA (2019).

ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE OF PROTECTED AREAS

The natural forests in the Mpumalanga Province include an estimated 40,353 ha of land surface area (Lotter, 2014). Much of the Province's natural forests grow between commercial forestry plantations, making conservation of natural forests a challenge. The land area protected to maintain biological diversity was 6 190 ha in 1996 to 2001, and increased to 23 707 hectares between 2002 and 2011, whilst between 2012 and 2022, it increased to 365 994 hectares. This includes the Barberton Makhonjwa World Heritage Site, which overlaps with other protected areas by 70 260 hectares.

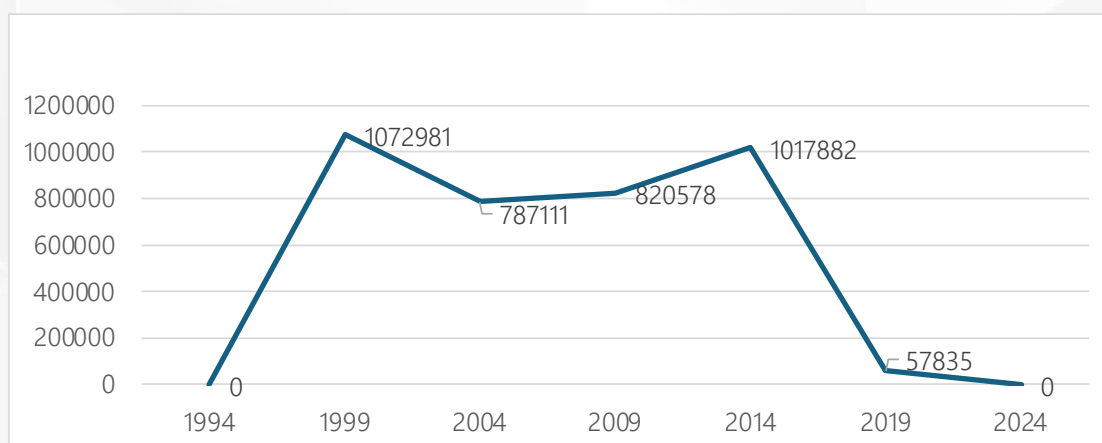
Figure 61: Environmental Management Authorities, 1994-2024



Source: Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs 2024 report

Over the past 30 years, environmental management has been promoted by adopting environmental policies that align with the international, and National standards of Sustainable Development Goals. That necessitated adequate authorities to be put in place. This led to an increase in the number of authorities deployed (See Figure 61).

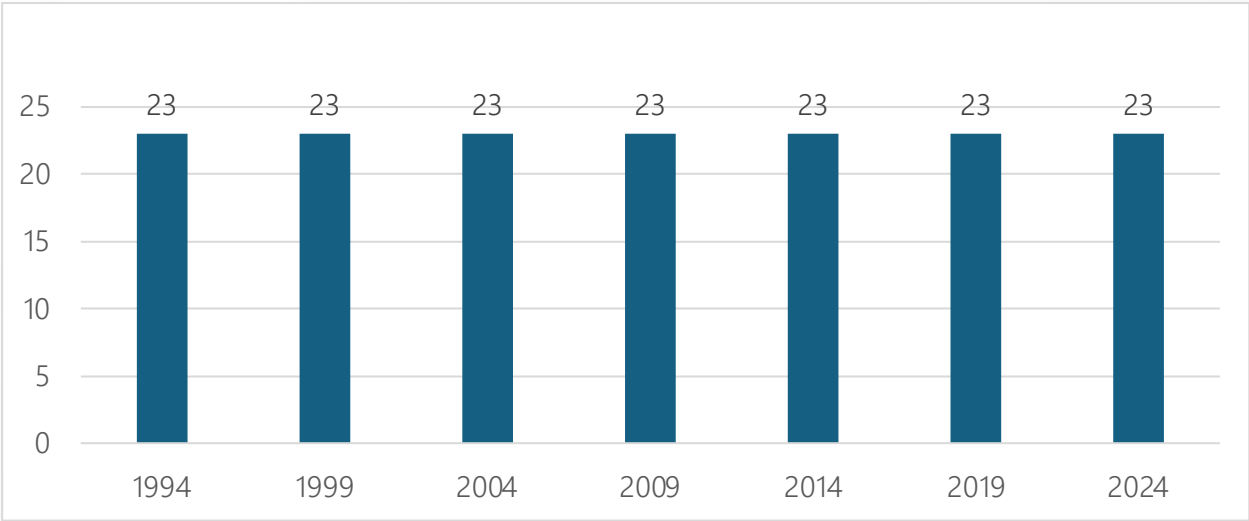
Figure 62: Hectares burnt within Mpumalanga, 1994-2024



Source: Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs 2024 report

Mpumalanga Province: Department of Rural Development Agriculture, Land Reform 2024 report
The Province has for over 30 years controlled veld fires and hectares burnt. Notwithstanding the rise from 1994 to 1999, there was a decline from 1999 to 2009. This was exacerbated by a slight rise from 2009 to 2014. From 2014 to 2019 there has been a significant decline in hectares burnt (See Figure 62).

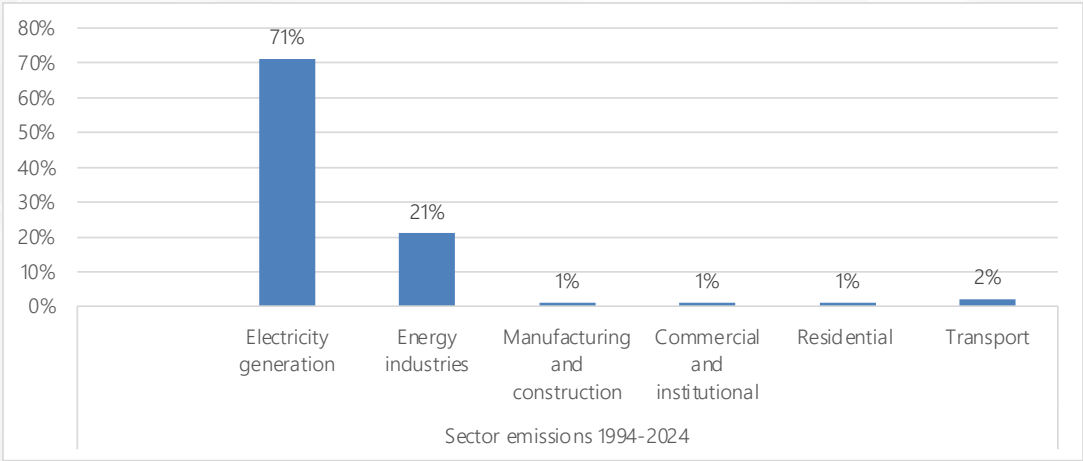
Figure 63: Average temperature for Mpumalanga in degrees Celsius, 1994-2024



Source: Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs 2024 report

The Mpumalanga Province, through its environmental strategy, has maintained the average temperature over the past 30 years at 23 degrees Celsius (see figure 63). This means the temperatures remain favourable for socio-economic growth, including agriculture, tourism and environmental management. Beyond 2024 with climate change adaptation, the Province should continue to explore the green economy in order to maintain the climate status quo.

Figure 64: Sector contribution to emissions, 1994-2024



Source: Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs 2024 report

From 1994 to 2024, the Province experienced the biggest emissions of carbon dioxide and other pollutants from electricity generation (71%) followed by other energy industries such as the steel and petro-chemical industries (21%). The other industrial sectors such as manufacturing, construction, commercial and institutional, residential and transport have been contributing between 1% and 2% emissions (See Figure 64). Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE)

Different initiatives have been introduced in order to integrate the township and rural economy in the manufacturing value chain; intensifying SMME participation in light and fast consumer goods manufacturing; facilitating the participation of SMMEs in minerals beneficiation and revitalising dormant industrial production infrastructure.

SMALL MICRO MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SMMES)

SMMEs nationally and in the Province, have suffered challenges. SMMEs generate between 50% and 95% of employment, make up 30% to 53% of the total GDP, and 19% to 31% of total exports to European and Asian markets.

The production of charcoal was seen as ideal for SMME development. Some large charcoal producers have also shown an interest in forming joint ventures with small-scale producers to secure substantial charcoal supplies regularly. They are often prepared to provide funding, training and the initial investment required for small-scale production plants.

SMMEs in Mpumalanga were predominantly micro enterprises (54%) and operated on an informal basis. Only a few SMMEs were formally registered with the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) and/or other Government registration channels, such as the local municipalities, and only 30% are registered for tax. However, those SMMEs that are formally registered are a significant driver of the economy.

CONTRIBUTION OF THE MINIBUS TAXI INDUSTRY

With over 200,000 taxis on the National roads, the taxi industry forms the most crucial part of South Africa's public transport system. Mpumalanga has many taxis representing one of the highest black-owned business enterprises, generating approximately R40 billion annually nationally and employing approximately 300,000 people, including drivers, taxi marshals, and administrative support staff roles.

The following section deals with the Province's contribution to environmental management and sustainability.

KEY OBSERVATIONS

The policies adopted at the National and Provincial levels have guided agricultural and forestry development in Mpumalanga in the last 30 years. There has been a significant contribution of the agriculture sector and forestry to the economy of Mpumalanga benefitting the small and commercial farmers and economic growth. Mpumalanga has used its vast forests to contribute to the economy and promote environmental management despite still using predominantly coal for energy generation.

INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICES

The Asia and Pacific region achieved spectacular development over the past half-century, surpassing expectations by any measure in economic growth, structural transformation, and poverty reduction.

All successful Asian economies worked hard to transform agriculture and traditional rural economies. Successful Asian economies promoted manufacturing, initially labour-intensive and over time, shifting to capital and skill-intensive industries.

MODERNISING AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Agriculture plays an important role in any economy. It supplies food, provides labour and intermediate inputs to other sectors, and creates market demand for industrial goods and services. Asia's experience shows that productive agriculture and a dynamic rural economy are key to successful structural transformation and inclusive development. Land reform - redistributing land to small farmers was introduced in many countries in the 1950s or earlier, especially in East Asia. It increased production incentives and contributed to agricultural productivity growth.

The Green Revolution resulted in increased mechanisation by using tractors and harvesters, which contributed to agriculture's modernisation and structural transformation. Developing Asia's per capita production of rice and wheat, the region's two most important staple crops increased by 41% and 246%, respectively. Asia's agriculture and rural economies have continued to transform.

Developing manufacturing created opportunities for trade and innovation. Manufacturing exports generated the foreign exchange needed to finance imported capital goods. Also, manufacturing has high-income elasticities of demand, which enabled Asian countries to benefit from rising incomes in both domestic and large global markets.

Agricultural value chains linking production, processing, marketing, and distribution have become more sophisticated, driven by market-oriented reforms and trade liberalisation. Increasingly vibrant rural non-farm economies have helped create rural jobs and raise rural incomes. These have contributed to integrating rural and urban economies and narrowing the urban-rural income gaps.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Mpumalanga Province needs to strengthen its economic development models including the agricultural land reform, commercialisation of agriculture and learn from the Asian models so as to integrate rural and urban economies. Mpumalanga should continue to promote agricultural productivity growth through the application of new technologies, and implementing land reform and consolidation. It should improve food value chains and agribusiness while developing and enforcing food safety and nutrition standards.

CHAPTER [11]

TRANSFORMING HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND THE PROVINCIAL SPATIAL LANDSCAPE



South Africa has a history of apartheid, a system which discriminated against the majority black people. Mpumalanga was not spared from the past injustices which touched every part of life including segregated settlements, housing and service delivery. When the system of apartheid ended in 1994, its consequences continued to be a reality beyond 1994. Consecutive administrations in the Mpumalanga Province had to deal with the challenges of transforming human settlements and the Provincial spatial landscape. Provision of housing to fight homelessness became a priority. This chapter focuses on Provincial aspirations regarding the transformation of human settlements as well as the Provincial spatial landscape, households in Mpumalanga, types of dwellings occupied by Mpumalanga residents, access to basic services and combatting homelessness.

The spatial patterns inherited in 1994 reflected the impact of centuries of colonialism and decades of apartheid rule, with highly unequal patterns of development, access to infrastructure, social services and economic opportunities being determined along racial lines. Black South Africans settled in overcrowded and impoverished homelands, and townships, with a tiny minority being able to afford land on the free market. Poor people resided far away from job opportunities and access to amenities, burdening the workforce with enormous travel distances to their places of employment and commercial centres. Access to emergency services was inadequate in rural areas, and some areas had no public transport. Marked regional disparities were also identified within the economy due to policies designed to ensure a migratory labour supply to the mines, and the ethnic division in South Africa. Enforced segregation and industrial decentralisation have located whole communities in areas with poor economic viability (30 Year National Review Report, 2024).

NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ASPIRATIONS

The NDP 2030 notes that progress has been made since the dawn of democracy in 1994. Despite the remarkable progress, the RDP's objective namely to disrupt apartheid geography has not been realized. Unfortunately, colonial and apartheid legacies are still observable in towns and cities. This point is further accentuated by Ratshitanga (2019) who believes that colonial cities are falling short of meeting the needs of African people. To continue on the path of transforming human settlements, the Mpumalanga Province has the following aspirations:

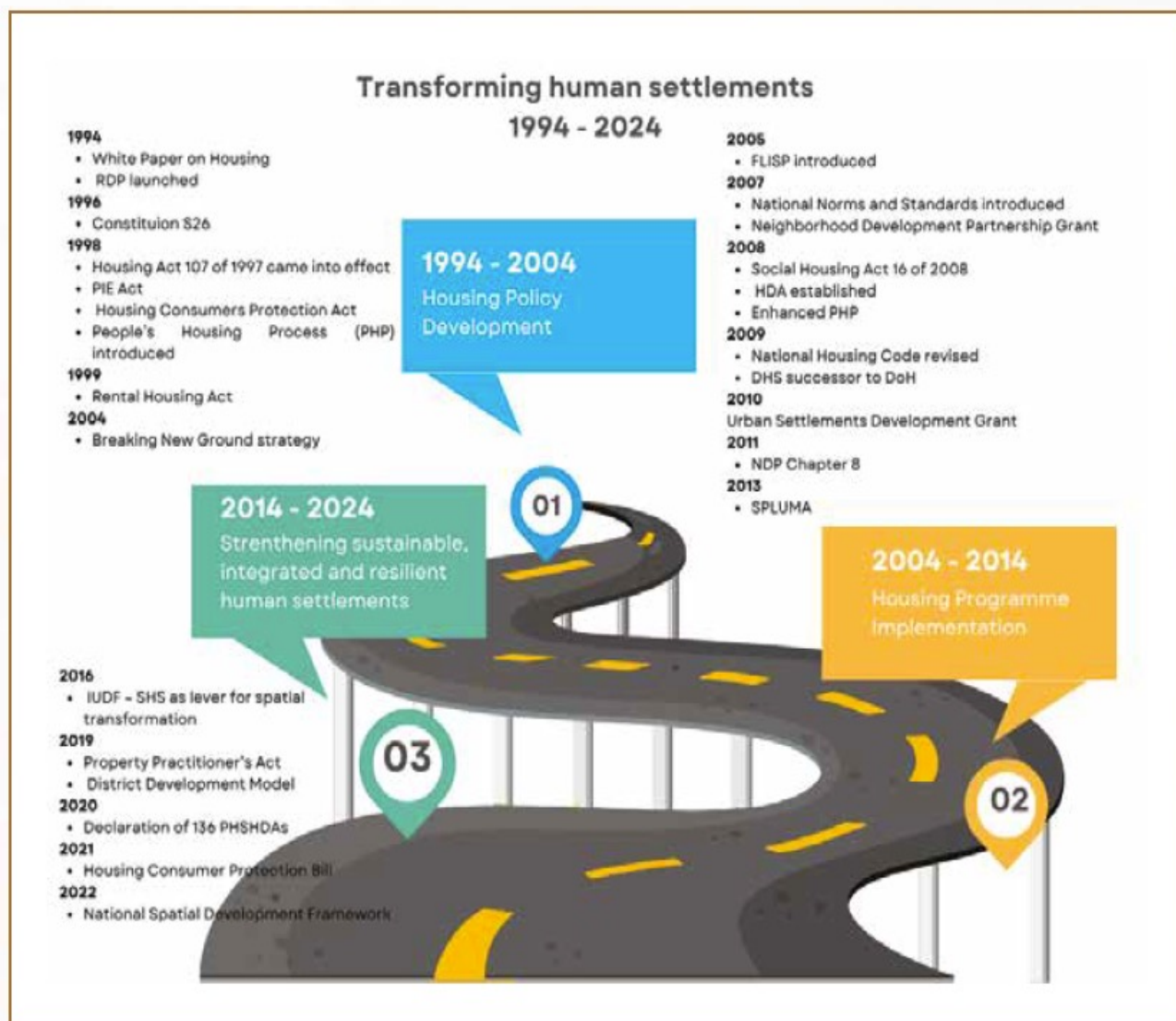
- ❑ Upgrading of all informal settlements on suitable and well located land by 2030;
- ❑ Provide housing to the disadvantaged members of the public and end homelessness;
- ❑ Increase population density and liveability in cities;
- ❑ Ensure the physical, social and economic integration of historically segregated communities through urban restructuring;
- ❑ Move jobs and investment towards dense township on city margins;
- ❑ Promote urban renewal and revitalisation in all small towns; and
- ❑ Create mixed suburbs in urban areas accessible to rich and poor of all races in order to address spatial distortions as well as inequality.

LEGISLATION, KEY POLICIES, AND PROGRAMMES

The NDP 2030 called for a clearer vision, stronger planning instruments, and coordinated capabilities to facilitate spatial transformation. The Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, 2013 (Act No. 16 of 2013) (SPLUMA) was a critical legislative milestone, which has subsequently led to the adoption of the National Spatial Development Framework (NSDF) as a strategic long-term plan towards 2050, as well as the Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF) in 2016, as South Africa's National urban policy. The District Development Model (DDM) was introduced in 2019 to improve coordination across the three spheres of Government and interface with non-Governmental stakeholders on matters of district development. SPLUMA provides the framework for all land development, including the legislative process for establishing human settlements/townships (DPME, 2023).

Seven major shifts are discernible when dissecting the key milestones in the policy arena of human settlement in South Africa over the preceding three decades (DPME, 2023).

Figure 65: Transforming human settlements trajectory, 1994-2024



Source: (30 Year National Review Report, 2024).

Shift 1: Moving towards an inclusive framework of providing access to housing.

Shift 2: Moving from housing to sustainable human settlements.

Shift 3: Low-value, high-volume production to reaping the urban dividend.

Shift 4: The State is changing its role from provider to enabler.

Shift 5: Shift in how housing is understood and defined.

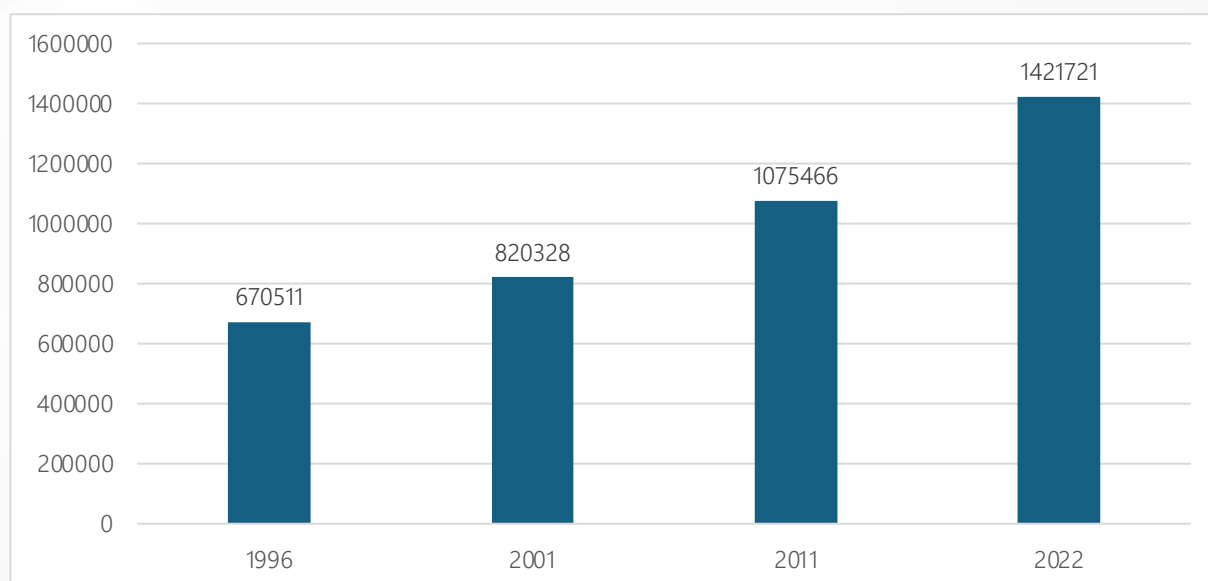
Shift 6: From eradicating informal to transforming informal settlements.

KEY MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

HOUSEHOLDS IN MPUMALANGA

In 1996, Mpumalanga Province had 670 511 households. The number of households increased to 820 328 in 2001. Beyond 2001, the number of households went beyond the 1 000 000 mark. The 2011 census shows that the number of households rose to 1 075 466. In 2022, the number of households in Mpumalanga Province was 1 421 721.

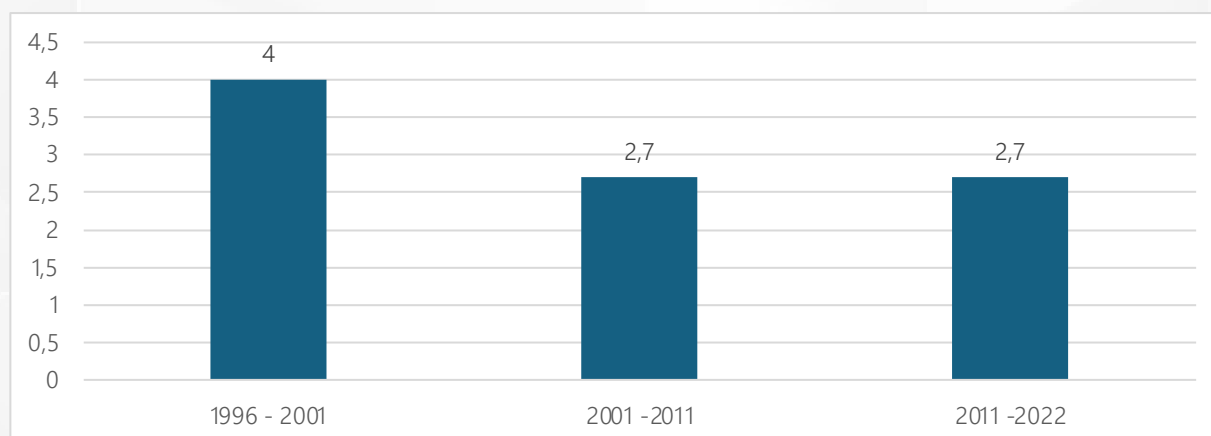
Figure 66: Number of households in the Province, 1996 to 2022



Stats SA: Censuses 1996 to 2022

Figure 67: below provides evidence that the Mpumalanga Province experienced its highest growth in the number of households between 1996 and 2001, being 4% growth per annum. Between 2001 and 2022, growth rate of households had plateaued to a 2.7%. It is important to note that any growth in households and new settlements require the Provincial Government to allocate additional resources for delivery of basic services such as water, sanitation and electricity.

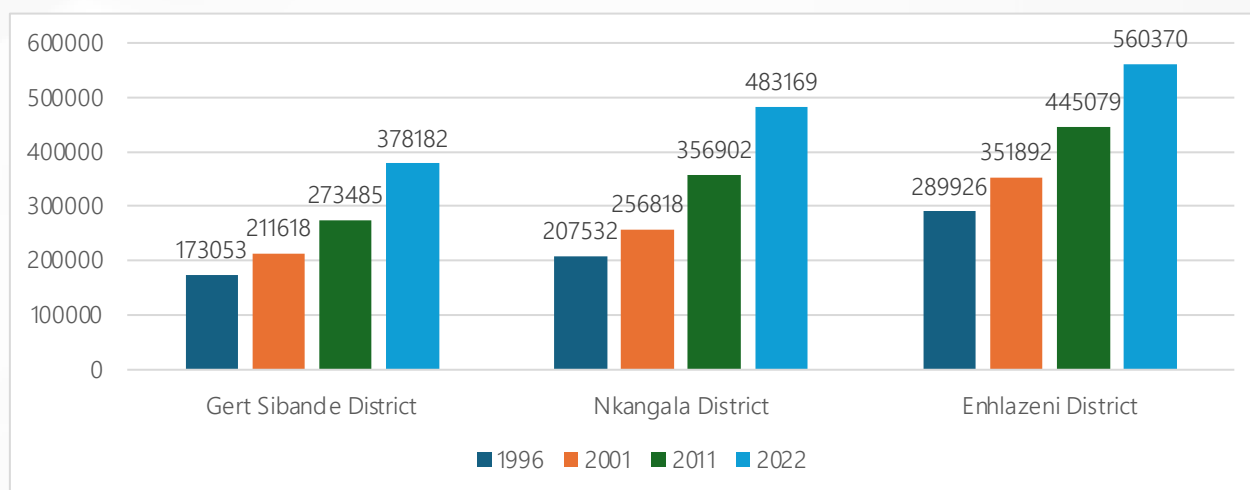
Figure 67: Annual growth rate of household in the Province, 1996 to 2022



Stats SA: Censuses 1996 to 2022

Figure 68 further breaks down the number of households by District Municipality between 1996 and 2022. Gert Sibande District Municipality had the lowest number of households followed by Nkangala District Municipality and Ehlanzeni District Municipality having the highest number of households. In 1996, Gert Sibande District Municipality had 173 053 households. The District Municipality further saw a steady growth of households from 211 618 in 2001 to 273 485 in 2011 and 378 182 in 2022. A similar growth trajectory was observable in Nkangala District Municipality. Nkangala District Municipality had 256 818 in 2001, 356 902 in 2011 and 483 169 in 2022. Following the same growth trend, Ehlanzeni District Municipality households were 289 926 in 1996. Subsequent census results show that the number of households were 351 892 in 2001, 445 079 in 2011 which grew to 560 370 in 2022.

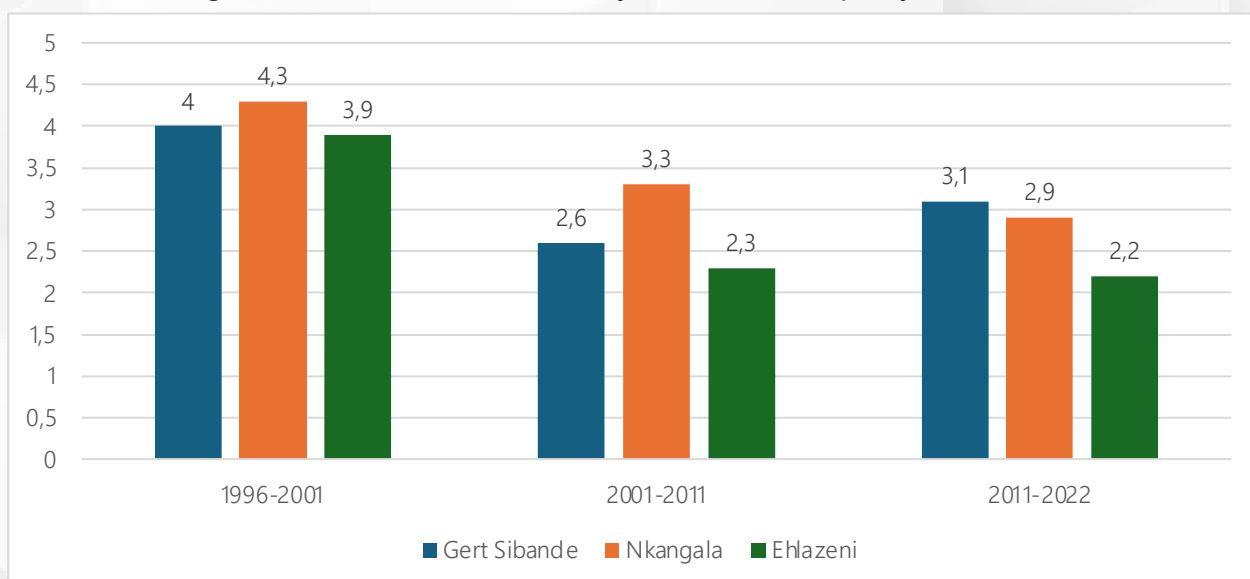
Figure 68: Number of households by District Municipality, 1996 to 2022



Source: Stats SA: Censuses 1996 to 2022

Figure 69 shows that the smallest District in terms of the number of households witnessed the highest growth. Between 1996 and 2001 Gert Sibande and Nkangala District municipalities had growth rates of between 4% and 4.3% respectively while Ehlanzeni District Municipality grew by 3.9% despite having the highest number of households. As alluded to earlier in this section, Mpumalanga Province saw a peak in its household growth between 1996 and 2001. Between 2001 and 2011, Gert Sibande District Municipality's growth decreased significantly from 4% to 2.6%. Ehlanzeni District Municipality growth had the lowest increase at 2.3% while Nkangala District Municipality had the lowest increase in the number of households at 3.3%. Between 2011 and 2022, Ehlanzeni District Municipality households increased by 3.1% while in the same period, Nkangala and Ehlanzeni increased by 2.9% and 2.2%, respectively. Of interest is that Gert Sibande District Municipality's growth was on par with the Provincial growth of 4% between 1996 and 2001 while Nkangala District Municipality was 0.3% higher than the average Provincial growth. Ehlanzeni District Municipality experienced 0.1% growth lower than the Provincial average. Between 2001 and 2011, Provincial growth average was 2.7%. Nkangala was the only municipality with growth that was higher than the Provincial average. Between 2011 and 2022, a different trend emerged at District level while the Provincial growth remained the same at 2.7%. The growth of Gert Sibande District Municipality and Nkangala District Municipality was higher than the Provincial growth average at 3.1% and 2.9% respectively.

Figure 69: Annual growth rates of households by District Municipality, 1996 to 2022



Source: Stats SA: Censuses 1996 to 2022

TYPES OF DWELLINGS OCCUPIED BY MPUMALANGA RESIDENTS

Transforming human settlements can be assessed on the basis of the type of dwellings Mpumalanga households live in. A higher number of households living in informal settlements suggests that the rate of transformation is slow. Conversely, the rapid decrease in the number of people living in informal dwellings points to accelerated transformation of human settlements. Figure 69 provides a picture of the type of dwellings occupied by Mpumalanga households between 2011 and 2022. A distinction is made between formal, traditional, informal, and other dwellings. Nkangala District Municipality had 295 344 formal dwellings in 2011. The number of formal dwellings increased to 441 139 in 2022. Formal dwellings increased by 145 795. The District Municipality had 8 645 traditional dwellings in 2011. The number of these dwellings decreased to 4 488. The decrease represented 4 157 households moving out of traditional dwellings. Informal dwellings decreased from 49 514 to 36 493 – meaning that 13 021 informal dwellings were eliminated. The number of other dwellings decreased from 3 399 to 1 048. This decrease meant that 2 351 households moved out of other unspecified types of dwellings.

Gert Sibande had the second highest increase in the number of formal dwellings. In 2011, the municipality had 197 877 formal dwellings which increased to 332 704, meaning that 134 827 new formal dwellings were built by 2022. Traditional dwellings decreased from 27 145 to 13 711. The District Municipality had 13 434 fewer traditional dwellings. Similarly, informal dwellings decreased from 45 935 to 30 590, a decrease of 15 345. Other dwellings decreased from 2 528 to 1 177.

In 2011, Ehlanzeni District Municipality had the highest number of formal dwellings. While the Municipality's formal dwellings increased from 408 455 to 536 797, an increase by 128 342 new formal dwellings, which is lower than the other two District municipalities. Traditional dwellings decreased from 12 495 to 6 910, a decrease of 5 585. Informal dwellings decreased from 21 357 to 15 345, a decrease of 6 012. Other dwellings decreased from 2 772 to 1 318, a decrease of 1 454.

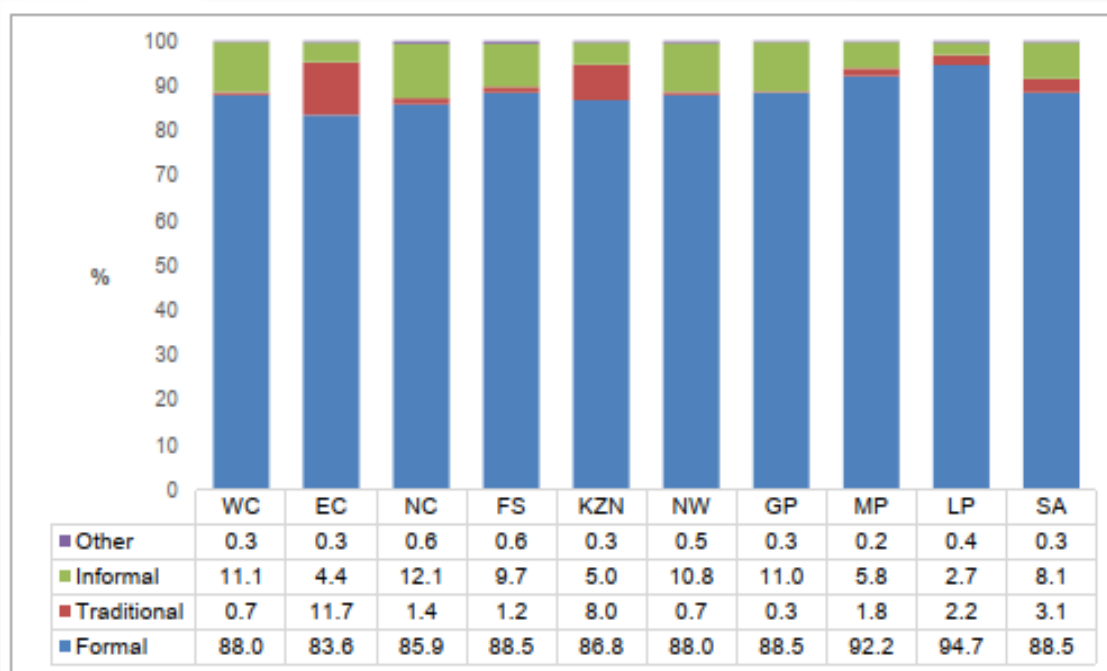
Table 23: Types of main dwelling by District Municipality, 2011 & 2022

Municipality	Formal dwelling		Traditional dwelling		Informal dwelling		Other	
	2011	2022	2011	2022	2011	2022	2011	2022
Nkangala	295 344	441 139	8 645	4 488	49 514	36 493	3 399	1 048
Gert Sibande	197 877	322 704	27 145	13 711	45 935	30 590	2 528	1 177
Ehlanzeni	408 455	536 797	12 495	6 910	21 357	15 345	2 772	1 318
MP	901 677	1 310 641	48 284	25 109	116 806	82 428	8 698	3 543

Source: Stats SA, 2023

Results show that almost all households in Limpopo (94,7%) and Mpumalanga (92,2%) resided in formal dwellings.

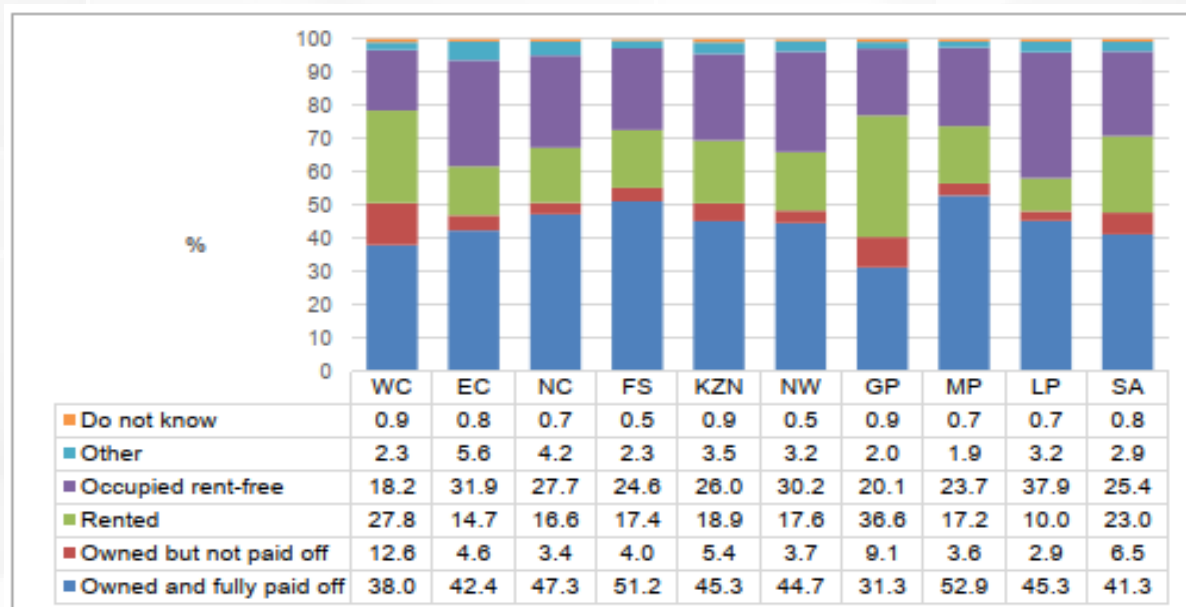
Figure 70: Percentage distribution of households by type of main dwelling by Province, 1996–2022



Source: Stats SA Censuses 1996–2022

Mpumalanga had the highest percentage of households which are owned and fully paid off, as it recorded 52.9%, and among those with lowest percentage of owned but not paid off, which stood at 3,6%.

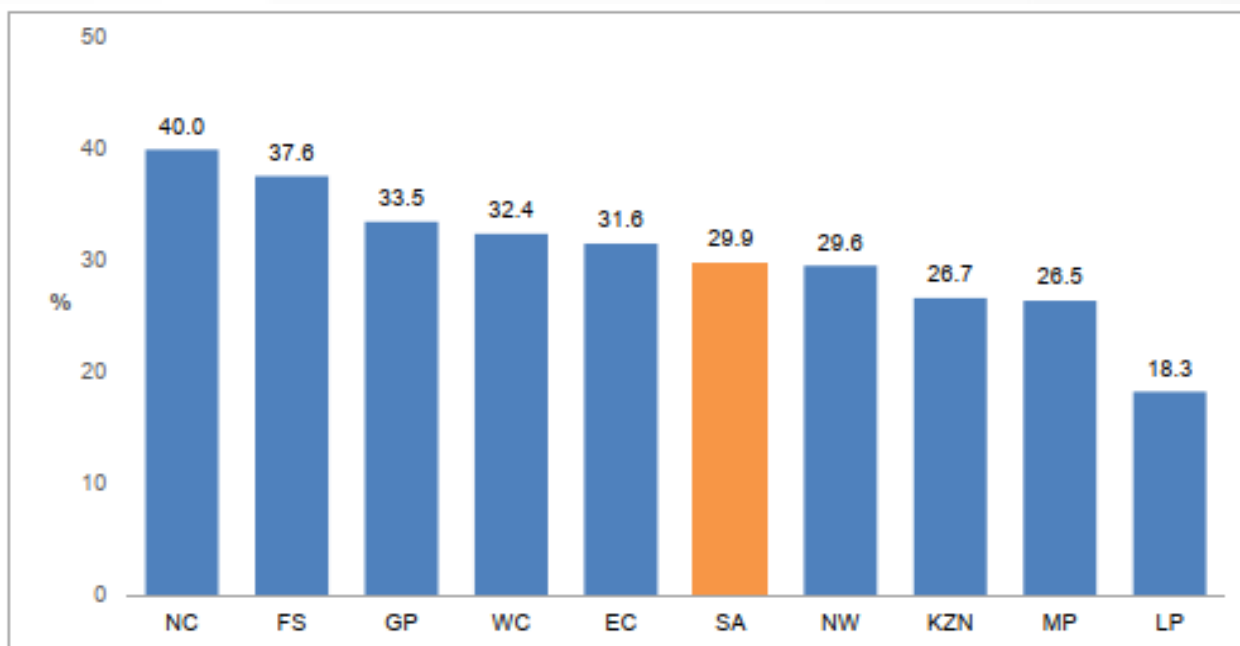
Figure 71: Percentage distribution of households by tenure status and Province, Census 2022



Source: Stats SA Censuses 1996–2022

Mpumalanga is the second lowest with regard to delivery of RDP Government subsidised dwellings, with a 26.5% footprint.

Figure 72: Percentage distribution of RDP/Government-subsidised dwellings by Province, Census 2022



Source: Stats SA Census 2022

ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES

The Mpumalanga Provincial Government has a duty to respond to the needs of members of the public. Basic needs which are central to a human being's survival include housing, potable water and sanitation. The share of households in Mpumalanga that occupied informal dwellings declined from 10,9% in 2011 to 5,8% in 2022 (See Table 24). More households, 57,3% had access to flush/chemical toilets in 2022 than the 45,2% recorded in 2011. The proportion of Mpumalanga's households with access to piped water stood at 86,9% which was slightly lower in 2022 than in 2011. Households connected to electricity increased to 93,7% in 2022. Households with municipal refuse removal was estimated at 52,4%. This was also improved from the 2011 level. 185 541 households in Mpumalanga still lacked access to piped water in any form and 82 428 households were still living in informal dwellings in 2022. The number of households that were not connected to electricity was 89 984, whereas 607 751 households did not have access to a flush/chemical toilet and 677 242 households indicated that they received no municipal refuse removal services.

As per 2022 census data as depicted in Table 24, the percentage of households not connected to piped water was 13,1%. Mpumalanga had the third highest/worst backlog among the nine Provinces and higher than the National backlog of 8,7%. The percentage of households in Mpumalanga not connected to electricity was recorded at 6,3% in 2022. In 2022, the electricity backlog in Mpumalanga was the third highest/worst and worse than the National backlog of 5,3%. A relatively small percentage of households in Mpumalanga (5,8%) occupied informal dwellings in 2022, compared to the National figure of 8,1%. In this regard, Mpumalanga ranked fourth lowest among the nine Provinces. The percentage of households that did not benefit from regular municipal refuse removal was recorded at 47,7% in 2022. This was the second highest/worst share among the nine Provinces.

Table 24: Delivery of household services in Mpumalanga by share of total households 1996-2022

Indicators	1996	2001	2011	2022	Trend 1996-2022
Informal dwellings	14%	14,5%	10,9%	5,8%	Downward
Access to piped water	82,2%	85,7%	87,4%	86,9%	Upward trend until 2011 and a later a slight decline
Access to sanitation	90,1%	87,9%	93,7%	98,3%	Upward
Access to flush/chemical toilets	33,8%	36,9%	45,2%	57,3%	Upward
Access to electricity connection for lighting	51,8%	68,9%	86,4%	93,7%	Upward
Access to refuse collection by local authority	35,6%	37%	43,7%	52,3%	Upward

Sources: Stats SA Censuses 1996, 2001, 2011 & 2022

Table 25 depicts serious disparities between the three Mpumalanga Province's District municipalities. Ehlanzeni District Municipality seems to be worse off in terms of access to flush toilets connected to the municipal sewage system at 30%, weekly refuse disposal service at 21,7% and access to piped water in the dwelling at 28%. Nkangala District Municipality follows with 62% access to flush toilets connected to the municipal sewage system, 58,5% weekly refuse disposal services and 53,3% access to piped water in the dwelling. Gert Sibande District Municipality is better off compared to Ehlanzeni and Nkangala District municipalities in terms of access to basic services. Gert Sibande District Municipality has 84,8% access to flush toilets connected to the municipal sewage system, 77,9% access to weekly refuse removal services, and 63,3% access to piped water in the dwelling. These disparities suggest that more resources must be made available to Ehlanzeni to improve the overall access to services by its residents.

Table 25: Access to Basic Services by District Municipality , 2011 & 2022

Municipality	% Flush toilets connected to sewerage		% Weekly refuse disposal service		% Access to piped water in the dwelling		% Electricity for lighting	
	2011	2022	2011	2022	2011	2022	2011	2022
Nkangala District	50,9	62	48,3	58,5	40,6	53,3	85,7	91,7
Gert Sibande	78,5	84,8	73,7	77,9	48,4	63,3	84,9	91,9
Ehlanzeni	15	30,8	13,6	21,7	14,2	28	96,7	97,9
MP	43,8	54,9	42,4	51,1	35,7	47	86,4	93,7

Sources: Stats SA Censuses 1996, 2001, 2011 & 2022

HOMELESSNESS

Table 26 provides a National picture regarding the number of people who are homeless, and the type of homelessness compared to other Provinces. Mpumalanga has the third lowest number of homeless people without a roof over their heads at 2,0%. The Northern Cape Province has 386 homeless people while Limpopo Province has 473 people followed by Mpumalanga with 869 people who are homeless and without a roof. Regarding the number of people in shelters, Mpumalanga has 437 which translates to 3,9%. In comparison with other Provinces, Mpumalanga is the second lowest. The Province with the lowest number of people in a shelter is the Northern Cape.

Table 26: Number and percentage of homeless persons by Province and types of Homelessness, 2022

Province	Number			Percent		
	Roofless	In Shelter	Total	Roofless	In Shelter	Total
WC	6433	3310	9743	14,5	29,5	17,5
EC	3452	541	3993	7,8	4,8	7,2
NC	386	202	588	0,9	1,8	1,1
FS	2122	1217	3339	4,8	10,9	6,0
KZN	6404	1364	7768	14,4	12,2	13,9
NW	918	802	1720	2,1	7,2	3,1
GP	23455	1929	25384	52,7	17,2	45,6
MP	869	437	1306	2,0	3,9	2,3
LP	473	1405	1878	1,1	12,5	3,4
SA	44 512	11 207	55 719	100	100	100

Source: Stats SA Census 2022

CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS FOR 2030

In a Province with a rapidly growing population, it can be expected that the number of households will grow significantly. Mpumalanga Province recorded a significant growth rate in the number of households. An increase in the number of households puts pressure on the Provincial Government to deliver more services. In terms of the delivery of basic services, Mpumalanga Province had challenges and successes. The data analysed in this chapter suggests that Mpumalanga Province is not doing well in the provision of piped water, refuse removal and electricity connection to households. The Province has achieved some success in the elimination of informal dwellings. Mpumalanga has the third lowest number of homeless people in South Africa. Ehlanzeni seems to be lagging behind regarding the provision of basic services and may require more investment to bring the District Municipality on par with other two Districts. Some observations in this regard include:

- Provision of potable water needs to be improved;
- Refuse removal is the lowest in the Province. More resources need to be allocated to this resource; and
- Ehlanzeni District Municipality may need more resources to improve the overall access to basic services and to bring the municipality of par with other Districts.

CHAPTER [12]

BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES AND FIGHTING CORRUPTION



This chapter assesses the Government's efforts in building safer communities and fighting corruption. Safety refers to conditions under which citizens feel secure and protected from any form of harm and able to walk alone feeling safe during the day and at night. (DPME 30 Year Review 2023).

The safety and security of any community are fundamental needs that require integrated proactive actions involving all members of the community. South Africa has prioritized crime prevention since 1996 with the launch of the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) which is a multi-agency and multi-party initiative. This strategy emphasizes proactive crime prevention over reactive crime control, focusing on preventing crime from occurring rather than responding after it has happened.

In 1994, the democratic South Africa inherited a complex set of challenges in the criminal justice system. Besides a fragmented security system, pre-1994 has largely been characterised by gross human and civil rights violations by various apparatus within the security system. These included:

- A violent society with unreliable systems for crime information management
- A climate of mistrust between citizens and law enforcement agencies, as the police had been used to suppress political dissent and maintain control
- Gang activities, such as drug trafficking, extortion and other forms of organised crime
- Illicit drug trade, with South Africa serving as both a transit and a destination point for drug trafficking
- Gender-Based Violence (GBV)
- A lack of basic safety infrastructure and services made communities vulnerable to crime
- Organised criminal networks, some with political connections
- Limited law enforcement capabilities and resources in rural and marginalised areas; and
- A lack of trust in Government institutions due to the repression of the past (DPME, 2023)

While the Government is responsible for setting up a legal framework and providing resources for crime prevention, the impact of crime is most keenly felt at the local level. Political parties often use crime as a point of contention, leading to oversimplified causes and solutions. Local Government, identified as the best partner for prevention programmes, plays a crucial role in addressing the safety needs of the community. Elected representatives, being closer to the people, can effectively advocate for the safety needs of their community. Law enforcement agencies need to build a trustworthy relationship with the public to engage in crime prevention efforts, especially since community members are often the first to witness and report crime. Addressing crime is a top priority for the Mpumalanga Provincial Government.

NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ASPIRATIONS

The second broad requirement of Vision 2030 is that people are and feel safe in their community, with especially women, children and other vulnerable groups feeling protected. Indeed, safety is also a human right, as well as a precondition of social and economic development. Although the component Departments of the criminal justice system are National functions, the various programmes required are implemented at the Provincial and local levels.

The NDP 2030 identifies five main requirements for an effective policing system to be achieved, in which communities may have confidence:

- The first is better cooperation and coordination among the component Departments of policing, justice, and correctional services - extending to their extensive Provincial or municipal sites
- The second is professional and capable policing, with standards for recruitment and promotion, plus codes of conduct and professionalism set by a National policing board. Performance must be linked to disciplinary regulations and disciplinary action must be promptly followed through. A two-tier selection process may be envisaged, with objective competence testing. Specialised units, such as forensics, should be re-established with associated capacity-building in partnership with the private sector and universities
- Thirdly, the NDP 2030 recommends demilitarisation of the police force, as per its mandate to “protect and serve”. This entails shifting from an ethos of command and control to one of leadership and self-determination; from following up on crime to preventing it through community policing.
- Fourthly, policing must adopt a holistic approach, tackling the fundamental causes of criminality in collaboration with related Departments like Social Development. In this vein, the NDP 2030 canvasses a range of sectoral policing requirements, spanning children, youth, women, schools, and rural areas; and
- Lastly, community participation by civil society organisations is essential, including measures such as the extension of community service to law graduates, community audits, voluntary participation in crime prevention, and safety plans for learners in schools and inner-city youth.

The other broad requirement for safe and sustainable communities is social cohesion. The NDP 2030 has the vision of a united, prosperous, non-racial, and non-sexist democratic South Africa where citizens accept that they have both rights and responsibilities. However, the legacies of the past are persistent. Differences in race, class, gender, location, and language translate into differences in opportunity and discrimination.

These are partly tackled by the objective measures recommended throughout this Plan, to improve education and health, increase employment, transform the economy, tackle the lack of rural development, implement redress, extend the social wage, etc., to diminish inequality. However, for such changes to succeed and be sustainable, subjective transformation – of the knowledge, beliefs, and motivations of citizens in families and communities – is equally important.

THE NDP 2030 SUGGESTS VARIOUS FAR-REACHING MEASURES:

- Popularising the Constitution and the values it embodies, as well as concomitant documents such as, for example, the Bill of Responsibilities for young people in school
- Media campaigns opposing racism, sexism, homophobia, and xenophobia
- Improving institutions fostering gender equity, non-racialism, economic empowerment, etc
- Incentivising the learning of an indigenous language
- Improving public spaces and facilities – sporting, cultural, etc. – and extending their shared usage for better understanding and interaction across race and class
- Promotion, especially by leader role models, of citizen participation in Ward Committees, School Governing Bodies and Community Policing Forums; and
- Achieving a social contract into the shared vision articulated by the NDP 2030

Crime and violence affect the quality of life of every South African. Reducing crime and building safer communities requires the commitment of everyone and the implementation of crime prevention initiatives at the community level. Government policy and legislation urge local Governments to take the lead in implementing local-level crime prevention programmes. This makes sense since local Government is often in the best position to do this. The key to reducing crime lies in having several organisations work together in partnership. These efforts need to be coordinated and led by a committed team, and local Government could play this role. A crime prevention strategy provides a useful framework to support the development and implementation of crime prevention initiatives at the local level.

It is also important to take cognisance of the fact that it is not only the reduction of crime and violence that contributes toward safer communities. The curbing of road accidents and fatalities is another important endeavour to consider in engendering safer communities given the number of crashes that occur in the Province and the proportion of the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison's budget allocated to this function.

South Africa's crime levels are well above international averages. The direct and indirect costs of crime to individuals, families, neighbourhoods, businesses, Government and the country include financial loss, increased fear of victimisation, restricted behaviour and movement, a breakdown of trust relationships, and untold short-term and long-term trauma and potentially lasting physical and psychological consequences. High crime and violence levels place a heavy burden on the Criminal Justice System, Health Care System and state expenditure.

It is therefore essential to find effective, cost-efficient ways of reducing incidents of crime and violence and to limit the negative effects and the destructive impact thereof. Crime prevention is a proven approach that could make a substantial contribution in this regard. In essence, crime prevention aims to stop crime from happening rather than responding to it after it has occurred. Crime prevention entails any action designed to reduce the actual level of crime and/or perceived fear of crime (Lab, 2010).

A community crime prevention strategy provides a framework for the crime and violence prevention activities that will make areas safer. Crime prevention comprises strategies and measures that seek to reduce the risk of crimes occurring, and their potential harmful effects on individuals and society, including fear of crime, by intervening to influence their multiple causes .

LEGISLATION, KEY POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

Preventing crime has been a priority for the Government since 1994. The 1996 NCPS focused on the involvement of the community and Government Departments in crime prevention rather than relying exclusively on the criminal justice processes to arrest and convict offenders – this is critical to making our communities safer. The Departments of Justice and Correctional Services and the Department of Social Development (DSD) also have primary responsibility, together with the Provincial Community Safety Departments. Local Government has been identified as a key partner to drive development and safety. This is because crime occurs in specific places within municipalities and is often related to the conditions experienced in a local context.

Documents that may provide useful guidance when developing a crime prevention strategy are briefly discussed next.

¹²Handbook on the Crime Prevention Guidelines – Making them work. UNODC (2010).

The National Development Plan Community safety receives particular attention in South Africa's primary strategic framework for development, the NDP 2030. Chapter 12 (Building Safer Communities) sets out recommendations aimed at improving the functioning of the criminal justice system and at protecting vulnerable communities and categories such as women, the youth and rural communities. The NDP 2030 acknowledges that an integrated approach to safety and security will require coordinated activity across a variety of Departments, the private sector and community bodies, and it encourages community activism and responsiveness (National Planning Commission, 2012). The NDP 2030 aspires thereto that by 2030, people living in South Africa should feel safe and have no fear of crime. People should be safe at home, at school, at work and they enjoy an active community life free of fear. Women should walk freely in the streets and children should safely be able to play outside. The police service should be a well-resourced professional institution staffed by highly skilled Officers who value their work, serve the community, safeguard lives and property without discrimination, protect the peaceful against violence and respect the rights of all to equality and justice (NDP 2030). To intervene and create instruments to address crime, the following policies and strategies were adopted and implemented:

THE INTEGRATED SOCIAL CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGY

The 2011 Integrated Social Crime Prevention Strategy (ISCPS) provides a framework to address the root causes of crime in a focused and coordinated manner. It looks not only at crime prevention but safety in general. The strategy enables optimal community participation in the development of crime prevention and safety solutions (Department of Social Development, 2011).

DRAFT WHITE PAPER ON SAFETY AND SECURITY

The Draft White Paper on Safety and Security (2016) supports the approaches adopted in the NDP 2030 and ISCPS. The White Paper confirms the need for an integrated approach involving multiple stakeholders from communities, civil society and all spheres of Government. The National Government is tasked with establishing a functional implementation mechanism that would oversee the implementation of the White Paper. It also outlines a central role for local Government that could be summarised as follows:

- Establish Community Safety Forums
- Develop and implement local strategies and plans in alignment with the White Paper and National and Provincial Strategies on safety and security, crime and violence prevention
- Allocate roles, programmes and budgets for safety, security and crime and violence prevention plans, at local and District Municipality levels
- Contribute to setting joint safety and security priorities and identifying possible areas for local Government intervention
- Align internal resources and objectives with safety and security, crime and violence prevention
- Ensure that integrated development plans (IDPs) take safety and security, crime and violence prevention into account
- Coordinate safety and security, crime and violence prevention initiatives operating within a municipal area
- Ensure the effective enforcement of by-laws on safety and security, crime and violence prevention
- Assist victims of crime through the provision of information about services that are available or, where capacity exists, provide victim support services; and
- Initiate targeted crime prevention programmes aimed at specific problems and groups at risk

KEY MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Nationally, public perceptions regarding crime management, reflected in survey-based evidence, indicate fluctuations over the years, with a general trend of perceptions of safety still representing a substantive concern, which has a bearing on overall police confidence. Victims of Crime Survey data routinely provide statistics relating to the extent to which individuals feel safe (or would feel safe) walking alone in their areas of residence during the day and when it is dark. Over the 2007 to 2022/23 period, perceived safety in one's area during the day ranged from 76% in 2007 to 88.4% in 2011, suggesting that a relative minority felt unsafe during the daytime. By comparison, over the period, feelings of safety in one's area of residence after dark varied from a low of 23% in 2007 to a high of 41.8% in 2019/20. This pattern indicates a longstanding and persistent crime challenge, with a significant portion of the public feeling unsafe in their residential areas after dark over the observed years (DPME, 2023).

Continuous efforts to tackle serious crimes reveal a mixed picture. While there was a decline in contact crimes from the early 2000s, recent years have seen a resurgence and heightened concerns of high crime rates. Concerns about violence against women and children persist, with reported cases on the rise. Initiatives such as Victim-Friendly Rooms and Femicide Watch aim to address GBV, providing support and data analytics for strategic interventions.

COMMUNITY POLICING FORUMS

The establishment and involvement of Community Policing Forums (CPFs) in crime prevention and community engagement have contributed to localised progress in addressing crime concerns. Recent achievements in community-based crime prevention in South Africa have occurred through implementing the Community-in-Blue Concept and the Safer Cities Framework. Stemming from the Community Policing Strategy, the Community-in-Blue Concept was introduced in all nine Provinces in 2020/21. This initiative mobilises and encourages community members to collaborate with the police, acting as eyes and ears on the ground to enhance police visibility and ultimately reduce crime. Additionally, the Safer Cities Framework, aimed at achieving crime-free cities or districts, was launched in 10 pilot cities in 2020/21 and expanded to 10 cities/towns in 2021/22.

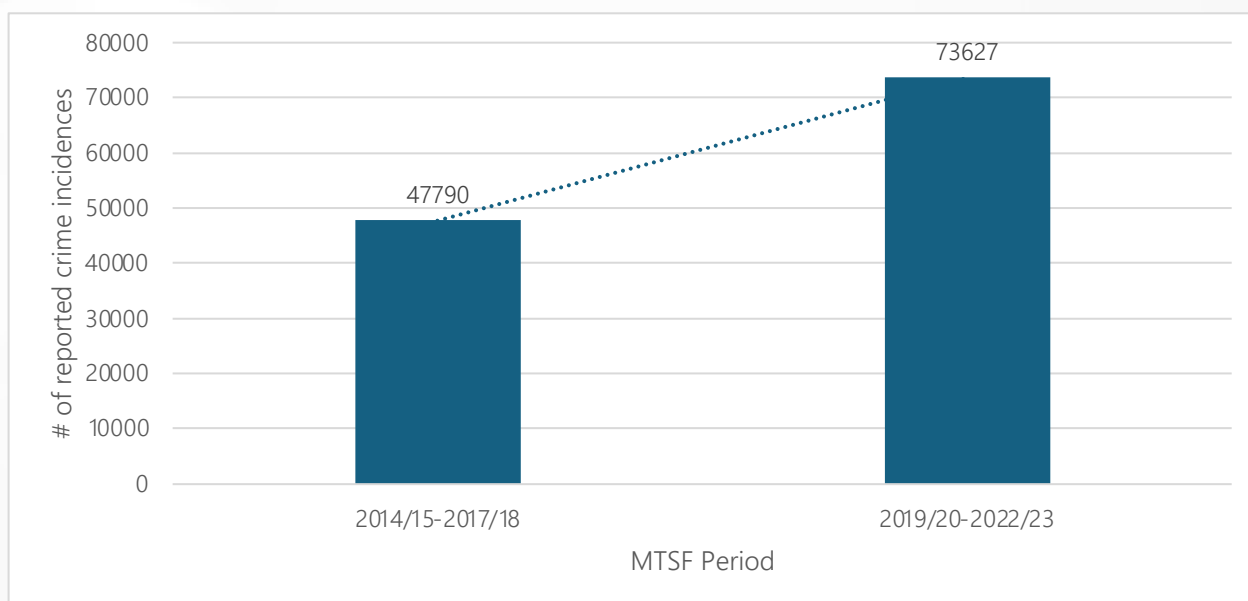
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

It is very encouraging to note that the institution of traditional leadership in Mpumalanga has also joined the fight against gender-based violence within the Province of Mpumalanga. The Mpumalanga Provincial House of Traditional and Khoisan leaders in partnership with the Emakhosikati structure and other key stakeholders conduct awareness campaigns on Gender-based Violence and Femicide, especially in areas under traditional leadership. These initiatives and subsequent results demonstrate that such collaborations and collective actions amongst stakeholders are important and indispensable for creating safer communities in Mpumalanga. This presents an example of good practice and an example for other Provinces to emulate.

REDUCING CONTACT/SERIOUS CRIMES

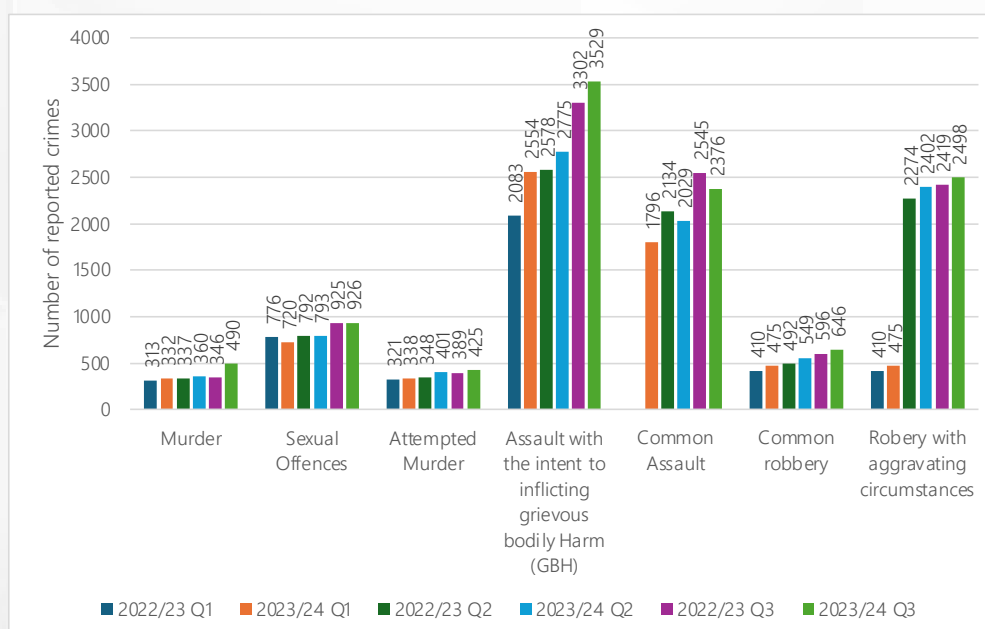
Despite the concerted efforts of various stakeholders within the security cluster to combat serious crimes, the levels of crime are still unacceptably high in the Mpumalanga Province as indicated in Figure 73. The statistics depicted in Figure 73 show that there was a spike in contact crimes in the Province from the 5th administration (2014/14 to 2017/18) to the 6th administration (2019/20 to 2022/23). There were 47 790 reported cases of contact crimes in Mpumalanga during the period of 2014/15 – 2017/18 compared with 73 627 cases in the subsequent period between 2019/20 – 2022/23. These statistics paint a bleak picture and are a cause for concern when it comes to creating safer communities and the prevention of crime.

Figure 73: Reported Contact (Serious) Crimes in Mpumalanga during the 5th and 6th Administrations



A closer look at the crime statistics in Mpumalanga reveals that most crimes committed and reported consist of Assault with Intent to Inflict Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH), Common Assault, and Robbery with Aggravating Circumstances as shown in Figures 74 and 75. This reveals the stark reality lived by people in the Mpumalanga Province, given the serious nature of these three crime categories. The only consolation is that the crime statistics are much lower than the other categories, although one murder is one too many.

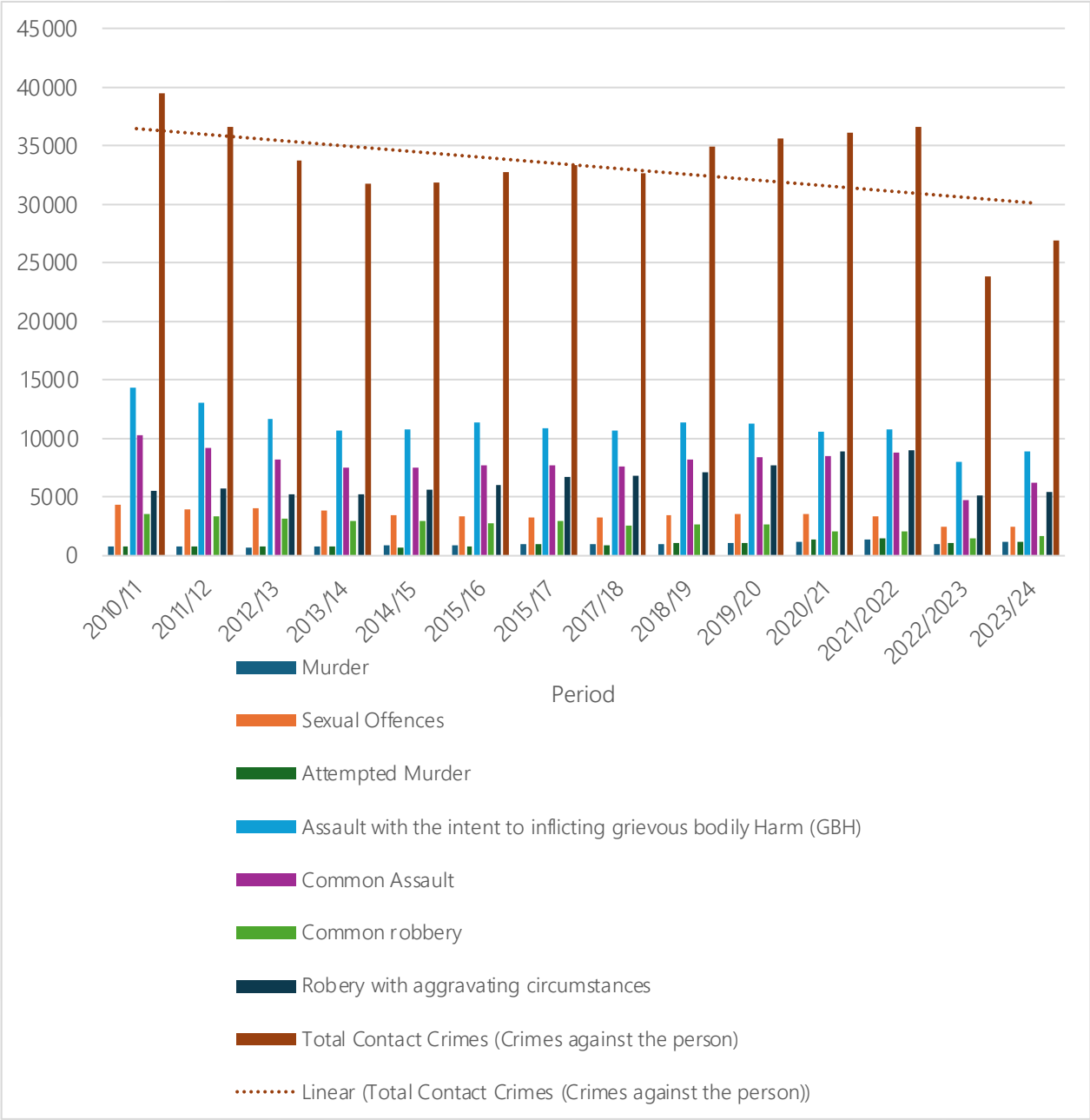
Figure 74: Quarterly Contact Crimes Statistics in Mpumalanga (2022/23 – 2023/24 Q3)



Source: SAPS Crime statistics report 2024

¹³ Contact crimes, as captured by the South African Policy Services (SAPS), includes murder, attempted murder, sexual crimes, assault with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm (GBH), common assault, common robbery and robbery with aggravating circumstances.

Figure 75: Annual Contact Crimes Statistics in Mpumalanga (2010/11 – 2023/24 Q3)



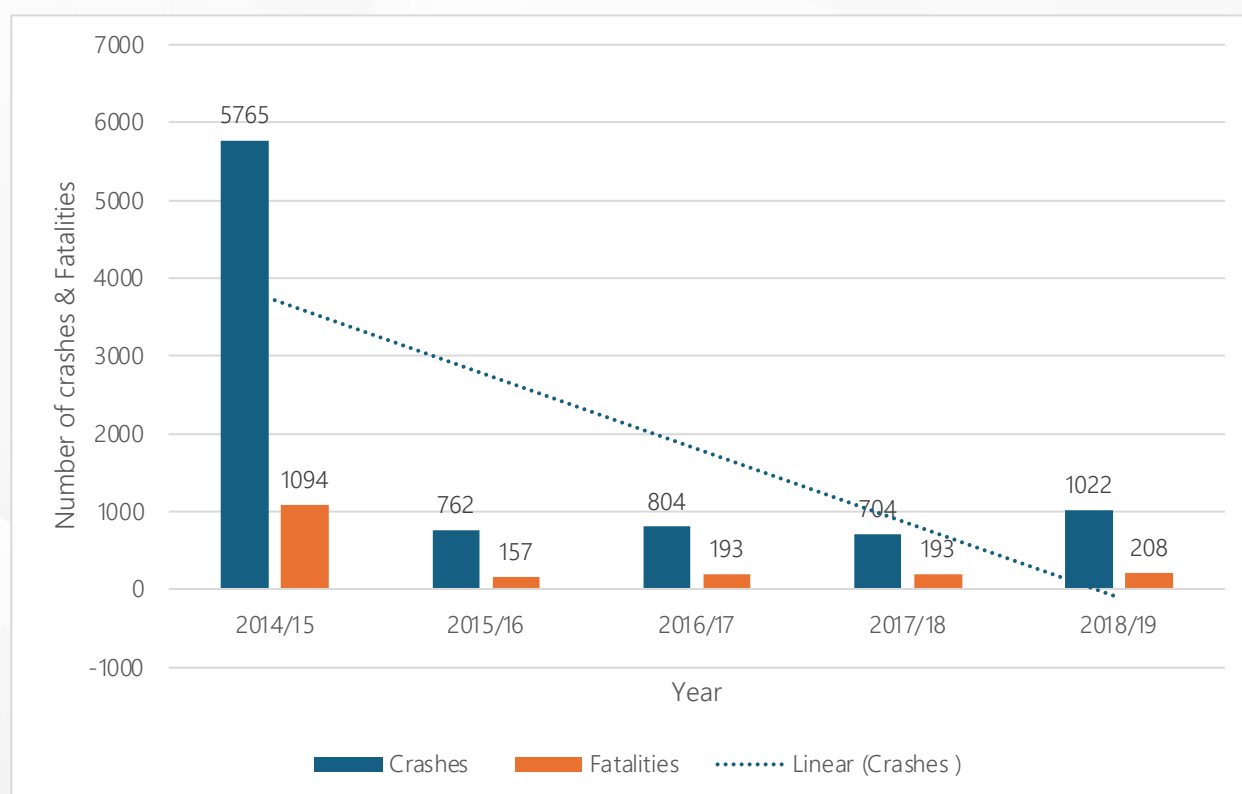
Source: SAPS Crime statistics report 2024

Table 27: Number of reported cases between 2010 and 2024														
Crime	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2015/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/24
Murder	717	726	693	806	831	859	954	922	996	1046	1201	1344	996	1182
Sexual Offences	4345	3955	4065	3797	3474	3331	3216	3198	3470	3513	3553	3294	2493	2439
Attempted-Murder	811	763	721	764	703	797	951	897	1090	1108	1401	1417	1058	1164
Assault with the intent to inflict GBH	14359	13025	11657	10712	10778	11359	10896	10690	11407	11250	10588	10766	7963	8858
Common Assault	10251	9187	8211	7467	7510	7649	7712	7641	8204	8423	8481	8810	4679	6201
Common robbery	3514	3324	3147	2977	2934	2746	2950	2541	2627	2610	2011	2007	1498	1670
Robbery (aggravating circumstances)	5517	5681	5198	5252	5656	5996	6702	6757	7091	7672	8864	8948	5103	5375
Total Contact Crimes	39514	36661	33692	31775	31886	32737	33381	32646	34885	35622	36099	36586	23790	26889
<i>Source: SAPS Crime statistics report 2024</i>														

ROAD CRASHES AND FATALITIES

As mentioned earlier, safer communities and crime prevention also encompass curbing road accidents/crashes and fatalities in the Mpumalanga Province. Figure 76 shows the road crashes and fatalities in Mpumalanga between 2014/15 to 2018/19 (the 5th Administration of democracy). One can see an encouraging trend in curbing road crashes and fatalities on the Mpumalanga roads from 2014 to 2019. In 2014/15 there were 5765 road crashes with 1094 fatalities compared to 1022 and 208 crashes and fatalities, respectively, in 2018/19.

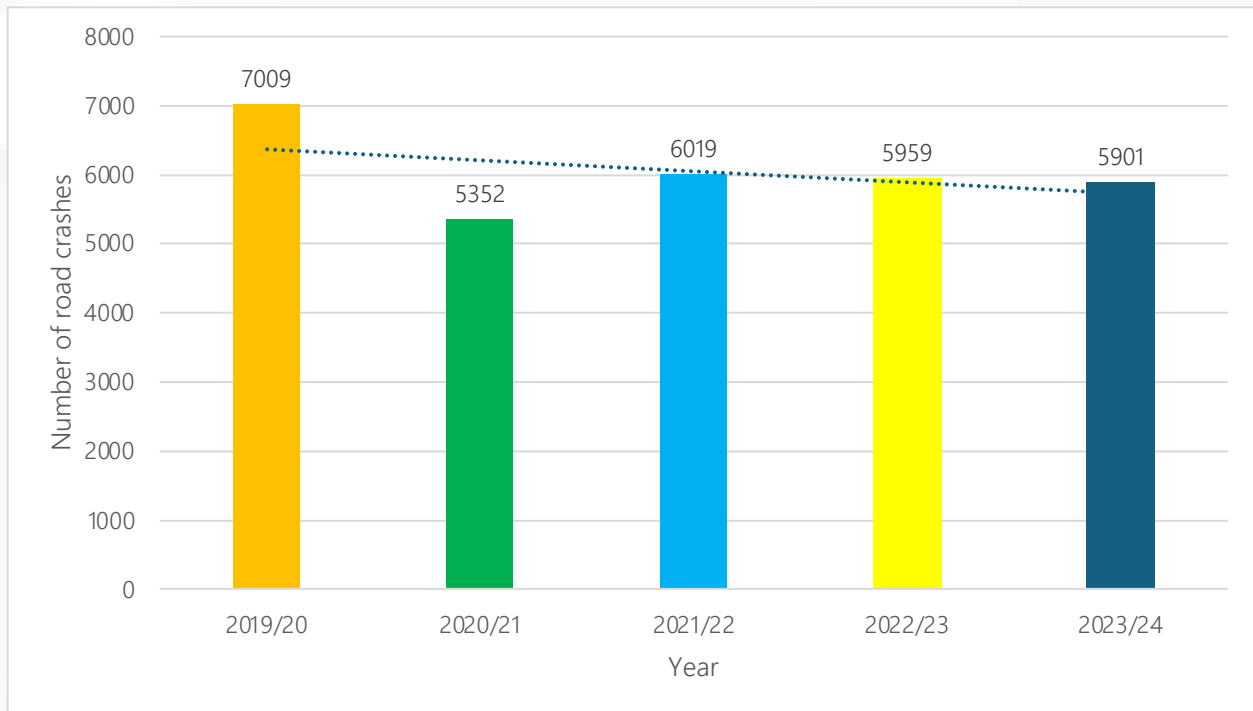
Figure 76: Road Crashes and Fatalities in Mpumalanga (2014/15 – 2018/19)



Source: Provincial Department DCSSL

Figure 77 shows the number of road crashes in Mpumalanga between 2019/20 to 2023/24. Although the figures show a downward trend, the picture is bleak compared to the previous period of 2014/15 to 2018/19 with the number of road crashes exceeding 5000 and recording a high of 7009 in 2019/20. This shows that there is still much work to be done to reduce the number of road accidents that occur on the roads in Mpumalanga.

Figure 77: Number of crashes in Mpumalanga (2019/20 to 2023/24)



Source: Provincial Department DCSSL

LESSONS LEARNED, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Over the long term, the overall trend in serious crimes (property, contact, theft, commercial, arson, sexual offences) has declined from 2.7 million recorded cases in 2003 to about 1.7 million cases in 2022. However, these levels are still considered too high by any standard.

There has been a recent increase in contact crimes and violence against women and children. These include crimes such as cash-in-transit heists, politically motivated killings, illegal mining, mafia gangs, taxi violence, vandalism of public infrastructure for cables and steel, human and drug trafficking, as well as international organised crime such as human and drug trafficking, illicit trade, terrorism, and cybercrime. Dealing with these crimes requires specialized approaches and collaboration with other countries. Efforts to strengthen border control should continue with the operationalization of the Border Management Authority (BMA) and the assistance of the SANDF. Social unrest and looting in recent years have presented significant policy challenges. All these factors influence the citizens' perception of safety and security, as well as impact investors' assessment of South Africa as a place to do business.

The use of technology in crime analysis and predictive policing has enhanced the Government's ability to target high-crime areas for effective interventions. The South African Police Service (SAPS), working with communities through the CPFs, and collaborations with the private security industry have also contributed to this success. The recent heightened collaboration with the private sector is a crucial step in fighting crime.

Moving forward, the focus should be on rebuilding the capability of the criminal justice system in terms of personnel, equipment, technology, and operational networks to combat crime and disrupt corruption. Efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the SAPS should be continued, especially given the decline in SAPS personnel over the past decade (from 155,531 in 2012/13 to 145,246 in 2022/23) and the inadequate density of police stations. South Africa's Police to Population ratio is currently 417 per 100,000 people, which is less than half of the United Nations standard of 1:220. A 10-year planning horizon should be adopted in resourcing the criminal justice system value chain.

The Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy must be effectively implemented and measured to engage society and be mobilized. Additionally, expediting the finalization of the National Security Strategy is necessary to promote peace and address threats to South Africa's national security.

THE KEY FINDINGS CAN BE SUMMARISED AS FOLLOWS:

- **Crime Rates:** While there have been fluctuations, overall crime rates in Mpumalanga have shown a downward trend over the past three decades. However, certain categories of crime, such as gender-based violence and property crimes, remain persistent challenges.
- **Law Enforcement:** Law enforcement agencies in Mpumalanga have demonstrated improvements in their capacity, training, and strategies. Collaboration with other stakeholders, including communities and neighbouring Provinces, has strengthened efforts to combat crime.
- **Community Engagement:** Community involvement in crime prevention initiatives has been variable. Successful community policing programmes and neighbourhood watch groups have been established in some areas, fostering trust between residents and law enforcement.
- **Socio-economic Factors:** High levels of unemployment, poverty, and inequality continue to contribute to crime in Mpumalanga. Efforts to address these underlying socio-economic factors have been limited and require greater attention.
- **Government Policies:** Government policies and legislation have played a significant role in shaping crime prevention efforts in Mpumalanga. Investments in law enforcement, crime prevention programmes and community development have been made, although there is room for improvement in coordination and implementation.
- **Technology and Innovation:** Technological advancements have enhanced law enforcement capabilities, particularly in surveillance, forensic analysis, and data-driven policing. However, access to technology remains unequal across communities, posing challenges to widespread implementation.
- **Challenges and Successes:** Challenges such as resource constraints, corruption, and societal attitudes towards crime persist. Nonetheless, there have been successes, including notable reductions in certain types of crime and successful community-led initiatives.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Prioritize addressing underlying socio-economic factors through targeted interventions such as job creation, education, and social welfare programmes.
2. Strengthen community engagement by investing in community policing, crime prevention education and fostering partnerships between law enforcement and residents.
3. Enhance coordination among Government agencies, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive and cohesive approach to crime prevention.
4. Invest in technology infrastructure and ensure equitable access to resources across communities.
5. Continuously evaluate and adapt strategies based on data and feedback from stakeholders.

While progress has been made in creating safer communities and preventing crime in Mpumalanga over the past 30 years, challenges remain. By addressing socio-economic disparities, strengthening community engagement, improving law enforcement capacity, and leveraging technological advancements, Mpumalanga can build on its successes and work towards achieving safer communities for all residents.

CHAPTER [13]

MPUMALANGA, SOUTH AFRICA IN THE REGION AND WORLD



This chapter outlines how the Province contributed to National, regional and international trade through exports and imports. It also outlines the National and Provincial policies used in promoting trade and the benchmark of best practices from other countries. It also provides the key milestones and achievements over 30 years based on specific indicators, challenges and recommendations.

In 1994, South Africa stepped out of over three decades of international isolation, inheriting a complex legacy. Polarised diplomatic relations and limited inbound and outbound representation painted a picture of an ostracised nation. Viewed as a destabilising force in Southern Africa, the country was marginalised from global economic affairs, sporting events, cultural exchanges and progressive multilateral processes. South African firms could not compete in international markets, while consequences of disinvestment by foreign companies further hampered progress. The young democracy inherited an image tarnished by human rights abuses. However, amidst the shadows, glimmers of hope remained – which included rich natural resources, and an industrial base, albeit built on isolationist principles, and more importantly, international solidarity networks forged by exiled South Africans provided invaluable support as the nation embarked on its journey to reintegrate into the global system, (DPME, 2023).

NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL POLICIES

The RDP envisioned South Africa as a sovereign State reunited with the family of nations, actively contributing to shaping a better world. This aspiration echoes in the Constitution, the NDP 2030 and other sector policies – all of which promoted principles of multilateralism, human rights, and diplomacy (DPME, 2023). The RDP laid the groundwork, by recognising that South Africa's destiny is inextricably linked with that of its neighbours on the African continent, and the developing world. This multifaceted approach would derive from the principle of Ubuntu – interconnectedness and shared humanity – and shape South Africa's role in the global community (DPME, 2023).

The NDP 2030 raised economic growth, promoted exports and made the economy more labour absorbing. South Africa planned to realise these goals by drawing on the energies of its people, growing an inclusive economy, building capabilities, enhancing the capacity of the State and promoting leadership and partnerships throughout society.

The plan focused on the critical capabilities needed to transform the economy and society, which are the raising of employment through faster economic growth and sustainable increase in employment through a faster-growing economy; introducing active labour market policies and incentives to grow employment, particularly for young people and in sectors employing relatively low-skilled people.

The primary objective of the MEGDP is to foster economic growth that creates jobs and reduces poverty and inequality in the Province. The growth path is anchored in several parameters including sector development, inclusive and shared growth, spatial distribution, regional integration, sustainable human development and environmental sustainability with clearly defined strategic targets over the medium to long-term.

LEGISLATION, KEY POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

In 1994, South Africa conducted a comprehensive review of its foreign policy to develop a new era of international relations. This was followed by significant changes introduced within the first five years of democracy being i) the transformation of foreign affairs functionaries across the State, ii) formal diplomatic ties, iii) the transformation of National Intelligence and the defence force, and iv) redefining National interests to guide all international engagements. South Africa re-joined the United Nations (UN) in 1994, opening a space for various engagements with UN structures and other international institutions. Several legislative and policy reforms were introduced and key decisions taken to implement the necessary changes. South Africa acceded to various international conventions and

agreements as part of reintegrating into the global system, including trade, investment, migration, etc. Examples of those international agreements acceded to in 1996 are the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Women, the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, as well as several other international instruments.

In 1994, South Africa adopted a policy on the promotion of global peace and security through the elimination and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, to reinforce South Africa as a responsible producer, possessor and trader of advanced goods and technologies in the nuclear, biological, chemical and missile fields.

Throughout its evolution, South Africa's foreign policy has held firm to key principles - multilateralism, human rights, and diplomacy. Nelson Mandela's 1993 Foreign Affairs article captures the future pillars of South Africa's foreign policy approach:

- Centrality of human rights in international relations
- Promotion of democracy worldwide
- Primacy of justice and respect for international law
- Peaceful resolution of conflicts
- Prioritisation of African interests and concerns in policy choices; and
- Promotion of economic cooperation in an interdependent world.

Mpumalanga Province shares borders with Mozambique and the Kingdom of Eswatini. Being part of South Africa, Mpumalanga's pursuit of its international cooperation objectives was executed within the country's foreign policy and protocols domain.

KEY MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

South Africa was re-admitted into the international community after dismantling the apartheid system and successfully ushering in a democracy. Considering a fast-globalising world, which is fast-tracked by the super-information highway, South Africa has since grasped the opportunity with both hands to become a key player from the South in broad global affairs. It has also given its Provinces space to participate in global affairs within the milieu of South African Foreign Policy. A better Africa and world would mean a better SADC region and South Africa. The economic corridors developed from Mpumalanga with other countries enabled economic transformation over the past 30 years.

South Africa recognised it could not be a honeypot of development while the rest of the African continent was locked in a sea of poverty and global marginalisation. This principle was cascaded to the nine Provinces, which were encouraged to form partnerships with African countries and not simply run to developed countries beyond the continent for investment and technical expertise. Within this context, Mpumalanga established partnerships with regions within countries globally, such as Egypt, Mozambique, the Kingdom of Eswatini, Russia, China, Germany, and Canada. These partnerships were formalized by means of Memoranda of Understanding, which gave rise, in many instances, to further more detailed cooperation arrangements between the Province and its International partners.

Since 2004, Mpumalanga has seen a steady increase in PPP investments in transportation infrastructure projects, with private sector participation in funding, constructing and managing various road, rail, and airport projects. PPP investments in infrastructure projects grew by 30% between 2004 and 2009, followed by a 20% increase by 2014 and a further 25% rise by 2024.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

This section highlights Mpumalanga's international trade and its contribution to FDI.

TRADE

Mpumalanga's contribution to total National trade was 2.7% in 2022, larger than the 1.1% share in 2017. The two leading Provinces, in terms of total trade contribution in 2022, were Gauteng with a share of 66.4% and Western Cape with 14.0%. Mpumalanga contributed 4.2% and 1.1% to National exports and imports, respectively.

Table 28: Mpumalanga Districts' contribution to Provincial exports and imports, 1996-2022

District	Exports			Imports		
	Share of Mpumalanga	Growth per annum		Share of Mpumalanga	Growth per annum	
	2022	1996-2022	2017-22	2022	1996-2022	2017-22
Gert Sibande	5.9%	13.5%	-5.2%	16.8%	8.0%	12.9%
Nkangala	79.3%	16.9%	69.4%	35.5%	14.8%	26.0%
Ehlanzeni	14.8%	10.1%	10.2%	47.7%	19.6%	27.5%

Source: Socio-economic review & outlook for Mpumalanga SERO March 2024

The value of Mpumalanga's exports increased by 34.8% per annum between 2017 and 2022, while imports increased by 23.7% per annum over the same 5-year period. The National exports increased by 11.5% per annum, whereas the value of National imports increased by 10.1% per annum.

Mpumalanga registered a positive trade balance of R64.8 billion in 2022, continuing the trend of exports exceeding imports since 1996. During the same period, the trade balance of South Africa fluctuated between positive and negative territory, finishing 2022 with a surplus of R221.6 billion. Mpumalanga was the Province with the second largest positive trade balance in 2022.

Among the three Districts, Nkangala (79.3%) was the main contributor to Provincial exports in 2022, followed by Ehlanzeni and Gert Sibande with respective contributions of 14.8% and 5.9%. Exports from Nkangala (69.4% per annum) recorded the highest increase between 2017 and 2022, and those from Gert Sibande only decreased (-5.2% per annum).

Ehlanzeni attracted 47.7% of Mpumalanga's imports in 2022, followed by Nkangala and Gert Sibande. Imports flowing to Ehlanzeni recorded the highest increase (27.5% per annum) over the five years and those to Gert Sibande the lowest increase (12.9% per annum).

¹⁴ ReX international trade data is derived from administrative data collected by the South African Revenue Service's (SARS) Department of Customs and Excise. The postal code of the registered post Office or street address of the South African importer or exporter is captured as part of the documentation of a particular transaction, thus enabling HIS Markit to disaggregate trade data to a regional level.

TOURISM TREND

The total tourism spending in Mpumalanga as an indication of the importance of this key industry, increased from almost R7 billion in 2001 to R28 billion in 2019 (before COVID). It decreased slightly to R24 billion in 2022. This was due to COVID-related factors. What can be highlighted, is that Mpumalanga was a popular tourism destination for international tourists. In 2022, it was the second most visited Province (after Gauteng) in terms of foreign arrivals, which is quite a good achievement considering that Mpumalanga is competing with the bigger Provinces, such as the Western Cape and KZN.

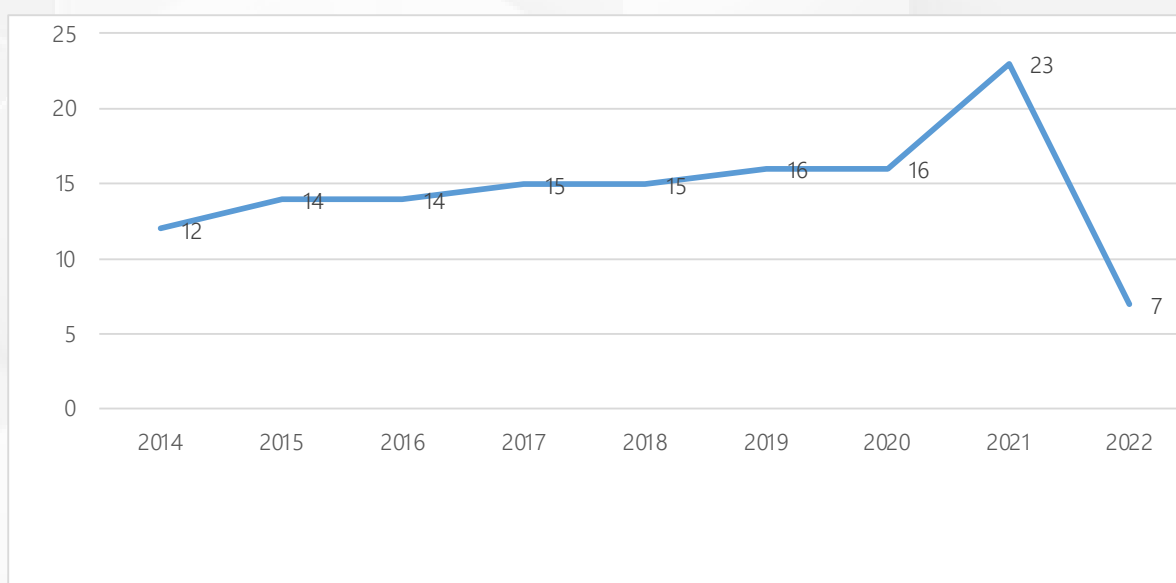
Over the 30 years of democracy, the tourism and cultural industries have become important sectors of the Provincial economy. These industries also contribute meaningfully towards economic growth and job creation. The wealth of natural and cultural resources that Mpumalanga possesses provides it with a base upon which to develop a sustainable industry.

In 2022, Mpumalanga captured the third largest share of total foreign direct spending (TFDS) with a share of 8.7% of TFDS. This was up from 6.8% of TFDS in 2015. Of the 1.18 million foreign arrivals in the Province, 87.2% were from African countries and 8.2% from Europe. In 2022, International tourists spent some nine million bed nights in Mpumalanga, which equalled 11.7% of international tourist bed nights in South Africa and constituted the fourth largest share among the Provinces.

From 2015 to 2022 the Mpumalanga Province experienced an increase in international arrivals from 12.3% in 2015 to 18.3% in 2022. TFDS had increased from R4.6 billion in 2015 to R7.4 billion by 2019. However, with the outbreak of COVID-19, it recorded a sharp decline to R2.8 billion in 2021. In 2022, it showed a significant increase when it doubled to R5.2 billion.

Mpumalanga claimed a 12% share of international tourist arrivals in South Africa. Between 2014 and 2021, it showed a steady growth of 1% on average annually. The arrivals had reached 23.2% by 2021, and subsequently declined to 7.4% in 2022, following the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 78: Mpumalanga % International tourist arrivals between 2014 and 2022



Source: Research and Development 2022

INTERNATIONAL BENCHMARK

Various countries in the developed world provide opportunities for developing countries and their regions to learn. Developed countries such as Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, have over the years driven economic policies that promote economic development and growth. The Asian Tigers, provide a platform for the Province to learn from.

The Asian countries and regions promoted exports and FDI, through piloted special economic zones, provided tax and financial incentives and launched reforms to improve the overall business environment.

Developing Asia's exports and imports grew annually at 11% during 1960–2018, and the ratio of trade (exports plus imports) to GDP rose from 20% to 53%. There was also a significant shift in the composition of exports, from mostly raw materials to manufactured goods and from light to heavy industrial products along with high-technology exports.

FINANCE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

International cooperation around policies, technology and finance has been crucial to realising the required big push on investment, and innovation for developed countries. A big push on investments and innovation relied on credible and supportive policy and governance that can create confidence in future returns.

INNOVATION AND SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

Much of the fundamental structural change needed, lies in transforming the key systems of energy, transport, industry, cities and land. All required combinations of institutional change, standards and regulation, design and good policy. Fortunately, revolutions in digital and Artificial Intelligence ("AI") enable the management of these systems in new ways.

INVESTMENT IN THE RIGHT KINDS OF CAPITAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Most European countries have moved towards green cities and capital investment. Capital investments can drive clean, green, job-rich and much healthier economic growth than before.

COMPETITIVE MICRO-ECONOMY

Domestic and external competition has often spurred innovation, the diffusion of technology and the efficient use of resources. Japan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, the United States and Europe's most successful economies have all established global competitive advantages through the rigours of competition.

EXTERNAL IMBALANCES, LEARNING TO FLOAT, AND BUILDING BUFFERS

Governments with hard peg exchange rate policies have often succeeded at containing inflation, but without supporting policies they can lead to declining competitiveness and external imbalances. Investment in people, the improvement of people's education and health is key to economic performance and therefore, to development. Increasing the quantity and quality of investments in people thus rightly forms a central part of the development agenda.

GLOBAL LINKS

When international flows of goods, services, capital, labour and technology have expanded quickly, the pace of economic advance has been rapid. Openness to trade, investment, and ideas has been critical in encouraging domestic producers to cut costs by introducing new technologies and developing new and better products.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

South Africa has been one of the most open economies in the world (exports and imports of goods and services collectively represented approximately 65% of GDP in 2022), with preferential access to numerous global markets. Fixed investment activity is spread across all broad sectors of the economy, with the financial services, real estate and business services sectors claiming large shares annually with contributions from different Provinces including Mpumalanga. The Mpumalanga Province's Vision 2030 Strategic Implementation Framework outlines the strategic trajectory that the Province should follow to address the issues of unemployment, inequality and poverty in the Province. Several key programmes for improving employment and economic growth have been highlighted. It is recommended that Mpumalanga should heighten its capacity and focus on implementing these key programmes as captured in MP V2030.

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