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Vision
“The City of uMhlathuze, as a port city, will offer improved quality of life for all its citizens through sustainable development. It will be a renowned centre for trade, tourism and nature-losers, coastal recreation, commerce, industry, forestry and agriculture.”

Mission
“To develop uMhlathuze as the industrial, commercial and administrative centre within the natural beauty of the region, providing a range of efficient municipal services thereby ensuring economic development, dynamic growth and the improvement of the quality of life for all.”

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The City of uMhlathuze is a strategically placed aspirant metropolitan, situated on the north-east coast of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Like most coastal cities of the world, uMhlathuze enjoys the best of all worlds. It is home to the country’s largest deep-water port and enjoys the associated economic spin-offs as well as a diverse natural environment.

The City of uMhlathuze is a progressive municipality, which appreciates the need to achieve a successful balance and synergy between industry, its rich environmental assets and the community.

uMhlathuze Municipality was established on 5 December 2000 after the demarcation process and local government elections of that date. As such it encompasses the towns of Empangeni, Richards Bay, eSikhaleni, Ngwelezane, eNseleni, Vulindlela and Felixton as well as the rural areas under Amakhosi Dube, Mkhwanazi, Khoza, Mbuyazi and Zungu.

Richards Bay is considered to be the industrial and tourism hub, Empangeni the commercial hub and eSikhaleni the largest suburb.

The name uMhlathuze is derived from the uMhlathuze River that meanders through the municipal area and symbolically unifies the towns, suburbs and traditional areas.

According to the legend the river was strong in current and was infested with crocodiles and, therefore, could not be used by locals. The name broken up has the following meaning: Mhlati – jaw, Mthuzi – does not chew. In other words, the uMhlathuze River was like a jaw that could not chew.

uMhlathuze Council consists of 60 councillors, of whom ten are full-time and serve on the Council’s Executive Committee. The Council has adopted a portfolio committee approach and interacts with its community using the Ward Committee system.

Administratively the Municipality has almost 1 900 full-time staff members led by the City Manager and his team of professionals, with offices in Richards Bay, Empangeni, eSikhaleni, Ngwelezane, eNseleni and Vulindlela.

This dynamic local government authority assumed city status on 21 August 2001 to place the Municipality in a stronger position to more effectively market the area – one of the country’s fastest growth points.

Effective management of services and resources and the provision of services to all residents of the City, which is 796 square kilometers in extent, are challenges which the Municipality has tackled enthusiastically. Proudly, the Municipality’s developments in this regard are on track and, in many instances, ahead of national government’s targets.
To put into perspective the sterling work that has been done to fast track service delivery, the municipal area has a water pipe infrastructure of 1 700km. Reservoir capacities add up to 260 mega-litres.

The length of sewer pipes in the municipal area totals 623km. About 50 mega-litres of sewerage are purified annually.

The City and its management live up to its motto “Vision into Action”. The number of accolades which have been bestowed on the Municipality in recent years illustrates the City’s progress in this regard. These include:

2006
• Performance Excellence Award (category: Sustained Service Delivery) from the Institute of Local Government of South Africa.

• Presidential Award for Advancement of Human Resource Management in Local Government from the Institute of Municipal Personnel Practitioners of Southern Africa.

• First place in the provincial round of the Vuna Award.

• IMESA/SAACE Excellence in Municipal Engineering Achievement Award for rural pedestrian bridges.

2007
• Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Recognition Award for the Most Improved Municipality from the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

• A Service Excellence Award from the KwaZulu-Natal Transport Minister in recognition of the high standard of service the Municipality renders to its residents as a vehicle registering authority and drivers’ licence testing facility.

• An Achievement Award from the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Sports and Recreation after the Municipality was selected as a finalist in the category of Community Achievement at the annual Premier’s Awards.

• Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Recognition Award for the Most Improved Municipality from the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

2008
• Premier Sport Award for sport promotion and development programmes.

• First place in the KwaZulu-Natal Excellence Awards in the Large Municipality category.
The 2007/2008 financial year has been an incredibly busy and satisfying time for the City of uMhlathuze, which has welcomed a new era of governance and embraced the changes that have resulted from new leadership and new perspectives.

My first year in office has been characterised by several overseas tours aimed at strengthening business relations and expanding our knowledge of social projects. Destinations have included India to strengthen our relations with Tata Steel and to discuss skills development programmes and possible skills exchange opportunities.

In April the City Manager and I visited the City of Milwaukee to sign a historic sister city twinning agreement between our two cities, aimed at fostering goals of friendship and goodwill for the mutual benefit of the communities by exploring educational, economic and cultural opportunities.

Programmes are to include:
• Economic development, particularly the promotion of trade and investment in the two cities
• Sports (in light of South Africa hosting the 2010 Soccer World Cup)
• Tourism and cultural promotion and exchanges, including youth and women
• Possible transfer and exchange of skills and development of government officials
• Promotion of exchanges of enterprises and non-governmental relations
• Promotion of health and education

I have also had the privilege of accompanying a high level provincial delegation, including the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Health, to Japan at the invitation of South Africa’s Ambassador to Japan, Dr Ben Ngubane. One of the main focuses of the trip was to visit various social projects including the “One Village One Product” agricultural project. The KwaZulu-Natal Health Minister will be submitting a report to cabinet with a view to starting some of the social projects in the district and the City.

As an example, this Council has taken a bold decision to service rural access roads for the first time to make the lives of those living in the rural areas much better. Similarly the MEC for Arts, Culture and Tourism, Mrs Weziwe Thusi, joined us in officially opening the new Felixton Library, which will largely serve the outlying rural areas that previously did not have access to such a facility.

For the 2008/2009 financial year we have outlined precisely how we intend to translate our City’s vision into a workable plan that has budget, timeframes and monitoring mechanisms in order to achieve our five-year strategic plan.

I have also had the privilege of accompanying a high level provincial delegation, including the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Health, to Japan at the invitation of South Africa’s Ambassador to Japan, Dr Ben Ngubane. One of the main focuses of the trip was to visit various social projects including the “One Village One Product” agricultural project. The KwaZulu-Natal Health Minister will be submitting a report to cabinet with a view to starting some of the social projects in the district and the City.

Back at home we have been honoured to host the Japanese Peace Boat as well as host an African Renaissance function attended by KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Sbu Ndebele.

Service delivery

Our challenge of service delivery here in uMhlathuze goes beyond just capital finance. It is also about skills and capacity to spend the capital budget. It is about transformation - changing the way we have been doing things to find more innovative ways of doing the job. It is about accepting that indeed we have backlogs and then being committed to eradicating those backlogs.

As an example, this Council has taken a bold decision to service rural access roads for the first time to make the lives of those living in the rural areas much better. Similarly the MEC for Arts, Culture and Tourism, Mrs Weziwe Thusi, joined us in officially opening the new Felixton Library, which will largely serve the outlying rural areas that previously did not have access to such a facility.

For the 2008/2009 financial year we have outlined precisely how we intend to translate our City’s vision into a workable plan that has budget, timeframes and monitoring mechanisms in order to achieve our five-year strategic plan.

We take seriously our mandate to involve the public in our processes. As a result our Integrated Development Plan (IDP) Review road shows resulted in twelve meetings including the IDP Forum. Importantly these were attended by the Department of Health, Department of Housing and our major industries.

The Municipality is also busy with a realignment to ensure harmonisation of all systems, especially conditions of service and norms between the municipal staff and the public. We are seriously committed to expediting service delivery.

Housing

The scarcity of land is the largest challenge facing housing delivery. A lot of land in uMhlathuze is privately owned and thus our land acquisition processes end up being subjected to prolonged processes of negotiation. This is one of the factors delaying our social housing processes.

However, the Provincial Department of Housing has approved an allocation of more than R455 million to rollout houses in Aquadene, kwaDube and kwaKhoza over a five-year period.
Housing plans for Mkhwanazi and Madlebe areas have also been approved.

Implementing agents in respect of the kwaKhoza and Aquadene projects have been appointed and the Department has also appointed Mageba Projects to deal with flood prone areas. Consultation with stakeholders will commence shortly.

**Economic development**

We are committing ourselves to developing social responsibility revitalisation strategies to drive growth and investment in the City’s economically distressed neighbourhoods. We have seen large companies showing interest in investing in our City and we are expecting others to follow. We want to see those investments creating greater access to better opportunities and services for all our citizens.

Highlights of the year include the commissioning of the Tata Steel plant in Richards Bay, the opening of the Boardwalk Inkwenzi regional mall, which boasts all the major national retail chains and the opening of the new Protea Marina Hotel on the Small Crafts Harbour. It is also pleasing to note that construction on the John Ross Highway is progressing and the necessary funds have been promised to ensure that this project is fully completed by the 2010 deadline.

Regarding 2010, the City has partnered with uThungulu District Municipality to develop a soccer stadium at the Richards Bay Central Sports Complex. Construction is underway and we are confident that we will be able to offer a basic facility that meets FIFA/SAFA requirements before the Soccer World Cup despite present funding shortfalls.

Our major investment attractions are the Richards Bay Harbour, the Industrial Development Zone and our strong infrastructure. The IDZ Board has now been appointed to represent the two shareholders, being the City and Ithala Development Bank. We are now making headway with the IDZ and are in the process of finalizing the business plan and complying with the statutory requirements.

As a City we are openly lobbying for the establishment of a fully-fledged container terminal. We are also anxiously awaiting the final announcement of the construction of the dry dock. These two projects will have very important spin-offs for our City and the country as a whole.

However, the national energy supply crisis is a challenge facing investment and economic growth, particularly the proposed pulp mill development. Energy supply is a global problem and can only be combated with global solutions. However, at a local level we desperately need to recognise the energy challenge and aggressively and effectively respond to it.

It would be unrealistic to assume that there will be no obstacles as we seek to expand economic growth and maintain the quality of life we enjoy today, but there is no doubt in my mind that we are poised to make uMhlathuze one of the most extraordinary cities in South Africa.

**Soft issues**

Apart from keeping our focus on the “hard” issues of infrastructure development and growing our economy through investment, Council has also shown its commitment to the “soft” issues, which are no less important to the well being of our communities.

In this regard, I am pleased to report that Council’s Interim Youth Committee has drafted a Youth Policy and will be embarking on a public participation process with the community to include their comments before Council adopts the policy.

Council needs to be engaged with our youth as it forms part of our responsibilities. We are passionate about the youth and want to make a difference within our limited resources. Importantly the Youth Policy will form the master plan for all youth related activities within uMhlathuze Municipality once adopted by Council.
A milestone achievement was the launch of the City’s AIDS Council aimed at creating synergy and co-ordinating HIV/AIDS efforts in the uMhlathuze area. As a spin-off the City later in the year launched an HIV/AIDS programme, targeted at the men in our community. HIV/AIDS is having an unprecedented effect on our communities, claiming as many lives as disasters such as wars and floods, devastating families and depleting health care services as well as robbing sectors of our economy of skills and talent.

The “Big Brother Project”, with generous funding from BHP Billiton, aims to educate men about issues such as gender-based violence, reproductive health, promoting positive masculinity and eradicating gender stereotypes.

**Building relationships**

The Municipality is committed to bringing the Amakhosi on board in its processes and we have entered into a memorandum of understanding with the five Amakhosi within the City of uMhlathuze. The aim of the memorandum is to enhance the working relationship with Amakhosi, thereby creating a synergistic partnership.

We have fully embraced the institution of traditional leadership, bearing in mind that this is one of our constitutional institutions.

I would also like to acknowledge the captains of industry for the co-operative way in which they work with the Municipality and the generous social investment they make into our communities to ensure a better life for all. Likewise the City values the close working relationship and commitment of Dr Syd Kelly and his team at the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone Company to attract new investment to our shores.

Similarly organisations such as Hospice, Child Welfare and the SPCA must be commended for the important services they offer to our communities. Their staff and volunteers are undoubtedly the City’s unsung heroes.

In closing, I would like to thank our City Manager and his colleagues on yet another successful year. Their level of professionalism and their commitment to the City and our community sets the benchmark in local government.

Together this “A team” of officials and Councillors will continue to work this coming year to further improve on our track record and make the City of uMhlathuze a place that residents can be proud of.

**Cllr Zakhele Mnqayi**

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF uMHLATHUZE
City Manager’s report

As the system of democratic governance in South Africa grows and develops, local authorities are also changing over time to support this system of democracy where the rights of our citizens are entrenched in the Constitution and protected by our courts.

uMhlathuze Municipality has grown over the years in a similar way. It has continued to provide basic services to its residents and ratepayers like water, electricity, sanitation and refuse collection, but it has also extended its services to other aspects of human existence.

The last couple of years saw considerable emphasis being placed on improving the lives of the residents within undeveloped portions of our Municipality. Additional facilities in terms of libraries, sports, housing and issues relating to the youth, gender and people with disabilities were given special attention. These additional responsibilities required the creation of posts and the appointment of additional staff to attend to these needs with functions, which were previously not exercised by this Municipality.

The past year also saw the implementation of the Municipal Property Rates Act, which will ensure that the Municipality is funded in a way which will enable it to fulfill its functions.

At the time of the compilation of this Annual Review it was also clear that the economy in South Africa, and indeed worldwide, had taken a serious knock. Despite the decline in the economy, Council was still committed to the following projects, which is indicative of the continued growth of the economy within the City of uMhlathuze:

- The building of the City Campus facilities for the University of Zululand.
- Extensions to the municipal accommodation including a new library.
- The start of the development of the northern block on the open space just south of the uMhlathuze Sports Complex.
- The establishment of Pulp United, a large paper mill factory.
- The establishment of a new casino and high-class hotel with ancillary developments along the canal.

The high number of private residential township developments further shows a healthy economy within the City.

The benefits of financial growth, ensures that our citizens pay far less on their municipal accounts than any other municipality. Part of this is due to the uMhlathuze Municipality being blessed with a competent Council who is able to understand the complex issues relating to the governance of a local authority, and enables them to take informed decisions and bring benefits to the City and its citizens.

Our achievements are also due to the dedication and abilities of the personnel.

Various comments of the public have confirmed that there is an improvement in customer relations over the full spectrum of services.

We were recently honoured to receive the Business Excellence award from the business community of the greater Zululand area, as well as first place in the provincial round of the Premier’s Excellence Award in the category large municipality.

My sincere appreciation to all employees for their contribution made to ensure progress in the City of uMhlathuze. Local Government in South Africa is subject to constant change and this road of change is not yet completed. Residents of our City can be guaranteed that the Municipality remains determined to meet the challenges that we face in the spirit of being proudly South African.

Dr A W Heyneke
CITY MANAGER
Committees of Council

Executive Committee
Chairperson – Cllr AZ Mnqayi

Bylaws Integration Committee
Chairperson – Ald DJB Moffatt

Standing Orders and Disciplinary Committee
Chairperson – Cllr EF Mbatha

uMhlathuze Public Transport Liaison Committee
Chairperson – Cllr MS Mnqayi

Community Safety Forum
Chairperson – Cllr M Lourens

Public Participation Committee
Chairperson – Cllr EF Mbatha

Committees of the Executive Committee

Finance, Marketing, IDP and LED
Chairperson – Cllr AZ Mnqayi

Corporate Services
Chairperson – Cllr CQ Madlopha

Management Services
Local Labour Forum
Chairperson – Cllr M Lourens

Civil Engineering Services
Chairperson – Cllr JR Harvey

Community Services and Health
Chairperson – Cllr MR Zikhali

Parks, Sport and Recreation
Chairperson – Cllr JL van Zyl

Community Facilitation and Housing
Chairperson – Cllr DA Nxumalo

Electrical Engineering Services
Chairperson – Ald DJB Moffatt

Planning and Environmental Affairs
Chairperson – Cllr NB Mzimela

Good Governance, Performance Audit and Performance Evaluation Panels

Section 62 Appeals Committee
Chairperson – Cllr A Viljoen

Audit Committee
Chairperson – Mr JH de Wet

Performance Audit Committee
Chairperson – Mr H Oosthuizen

Performance Evaluation Panel for Heads of Department
Dr AW Heyneke, Cllr AZ Mnqayi, Mr H Oosthuizen, Mr BB Biyela

Performance Evaluation Panel for City Manager
Cllr AZ Mnqayi, Ald DJB Moffatt, Mr H Oosthuizen, Cllr S Larkan, Ms C McCartney

Mayor
Mnqayi, Amos Zakhele – ANC (Exco)

Deputy Mayor
Madlopha, Celiwe Qhamkile – ANC (Exco)

Speaker
Mbatha, Elphas Felokwakhe – ANC (Ward 17)

Chief Whip
Mbanjwa, Nontokozo Catherine – ANC
Public Libraries

uMhlathuze Municipality has seven libraries, all of which are computerised with the exception of Felixton Library. The Ngwelezane Library went live onto the PALS system in October 2007. Computers are playing a far more important role than ever before as Provincial Library Services also made a huge contribution by subsidising six computers per library for Internet access for the public. Free Internet access has been introduced at the Empangeni, Ngwelezane, eSikhaleni and eNseleni libraries. The fact that more library staff members now have Internet access, contributes to a high standard of service delivery being maintained.

Council, with Provincial funding, embarked on the renovation and upgrading of an old community hall in Felixton to be transformed into a Library. This library building opened in October 2008 will result in Council’s library service being extended to residents in the outlying areas of uMhlathuze. It is anticipated that the rural community library will use the facility, as it will be within walking distance for the people who could not previously access libraries. There is additional reference material, a photocopier and study space, and the library is also available for after-hours’ meetings.

The “Read and Grow” campaign was successfully held at all libraries during the last 18 months with the exception of the Brackenham and Felixton libraries. It was well supported and the libraries gained quite a number of new readers.

The ever-popular holiday programmes kept the children busy during the school holidays. Once they were back in school the libraries were inundated with reference queries for school projects. The libraries also assist students with university assignments and professionals with business projects.

“Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life. Libraries change lives for the better.” Author Sidney Sheldon

The following statistics reflect the use made of the libraries by the community:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library</th>
<th>Circulation</th>
<th>Visitors</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richards Bay</td>
<td>187 915</td>
<td>183 518</td>
<td>6 971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empangeni</td>
<td>105 632</td>
<td>137 987</td>
<td>6 278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eSikhaleni</td>
<td>16 993</td>
<td>88 026</td>
<td>3 265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngwelezane</td>
<td>8 590</td>
<td>101 047</td>
<td>817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eNseleni</td>
<td>8 980</td>
<td>98 450</td>
<td>3 226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brackenham</td>
<td>15 999</td>
<td>±20 000</td>
<td>1 661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felixton</td>
<td>3 015</td>
<td>±970</td>
<td>228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>347 124</strong></td>
<td><strong>629 998</strong></td>
<td><strong>22 446</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Secretariat

2007/2008 was a year of changes on Council. During August 2007, Councillor Beena Simmadhri, a proportional councillor representing the IFP, joined Council following Councillor Ivan Barnes’ resignation. Further changes were brought about following the floor crossing during September 2007. Councillor Les Joseph of the IFP lost his seat in Council and Councillor Raphael Zikhali joined the ranks of the ANC from the DA. Councillor Ahmed Dawood (ANC) contested the by-election in Ward 2, replacing Councillor Leslie Joseph. Councillor Martine Heaney of the DA resigned from Council with effect from 1 April and Councillor Louis Werner Fourie, a proportional councillor, joined the ranks in June 2008.
Sadly, Councillor Thandeka Fonseca (ANC) passed away during this period and Councillor Raymond Nkwanyana (ANC) filled the vacancy in Ward 24 in April 2008. Councillors Simmadhri, Dawood, Nkwanyana and Fourie were duly sworn in and took the Oath of Office administered by Senior Magistrate AB Ntshangase.

Councillor AZ Mnqayi was inaugurated as Mayor during September 2007 and Councillors EF Mbatha and CQ Madlopha retained their respective designations as Speaker and Deputy Mayor. The MEC for Local Government in the Province designated the Chief Whip of the Council as a full time councillor. Councillor Get Mbanjwa was subsequently appointed as Municipal Chief Whip.

Nine Portfolio Committees (Section 80 Committees of Council) based on the current nine departments of Council are scheduled to meet twice a month. The Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons of these committees are all members of the Executive Committee. The remainder of the members on all the committees are deployed by their respective parties based on a system of proportionality. This ensures that all councillors are included and afforded the opportunity of participating in decision-making from the outset.

There are seven Section 79 Committees of Council (Standing Orders and Disciplinary, Bylaws, Public Transportation, CCTV Camera Project, Community Safety Forum, Local Labour Forum and the Public Participation Committee) which meet, on average, once a month.

A number of other ad hoc committees are established to deal with various issues as and when required. The Performance Audit Committee, Performance Assessment Committees and the Audit Committee as well as the Board of Trustees meet every three months.

There are two hundred report writers registered on the system who all contribute in one way or another by writing reports for their respective departments. All reports are submitted to the relevant portfolio committee or other committee after careful scrutiny by the Committee Section, Director Corporate Services and the Chief Executive Officer. The reports are then submitted to the portfolio committee, whereafter any further enhancements are made and ultimately submitted to the Executive Committee who meet every two weeks and Council, which meets once a month, for final resolution.

The implementation of the Municipal Finance Management Act and subsequent Supply Chain Management and Preferential Procurement policies have resulted in a more open and streamlined contract and tendering process. Meetings of the Specifications Committee are held on a Monday morning and once approved, the relevant Specifications Advertisement is sent to the media for publication in the same week. The Evaluation Committee meets twice a week, by considering reports on a Monday and approving its minutes on the Wednesday. These reports are then submitted to the Adjudication Committee for approval on the same Wednesday and the minutes are approved on the Friday.

On approval of said minutes, the Accounting Officer signs the minutes and the entire evaluation and adjudication process is finalised within five working days thereby ensuring the minimum delay in the awarding of tenders and contracts.

Other than preparing agendas, doing minutes and attending meetings, as well as attending to a variety of administrative issues, the Committee Section is often called upon to deal with Ministerial functions and delegations from abroad. Their role in supervising and co-ordinating the events is proof of the very multi-disciplined functionality and abilities of staff in this section.

The following statistics confirm just how busy this section is with arranging meetings, compiling agendas and finalising the concommitant minutes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of Meetings held</th>
<th>Number of items considered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Council</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio Committees</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bid Committees</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management Team</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>449</strong></td>
<td><strong>4257</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Halls

The uMhlathuze Municipality owns a total of 13 halls / public facilities situated in the different towns and suburbs. These halls are leased to the community for functions, weddings, etc. The Department manages the bookings and use of the facilities (including equipment) in accordance with Council’s bylaws and procedures. This includes bookings, cleaning, verification and calculation of damages, repayment of deposits and security services.

The Department is also responsible for the maintenance and upgrading / extension of these facilities to meet the needs of the community.

In order to enhance the functionality of the halls and make them more user-friendlier and appealing, the following were done during the year under review:

- The ceiling fans at Ngwelezane hall were replaced since they were not effective enough to cool the area on hot summer days.
- Scrubbers or polishers were purchased for Mzingazi, eNseleni, Vulindlela, Empangeni and Ngwelezane halls to help keep the halls clean at all times.
- Brackenham Hall was supplied with a new fridge replacing the old one that had become defective.
- Vulindlela and Brackenham halls were fenced to improve the security for all hirers.

Central Registry

This section is responsible for all in- and outgoing mail as well as the archiving and safekeeping of all documentation of the Municipality. All internal and external communication is channeled through this section. The Director Corporate Services is also responsible for the designation of all incoming mail to the relevant departments. Proper control has to be exercised to ensure the safekeeping of all files and information and the referral of it to departments on request. The provision of timeous and proper service to the community requires that this section be managed with extreme efficiency. Strict regulations and procedures govern this function.

During this year Central Registry dealt with an average of 1 000 pieces of incoming mail and 5 300 pieces of outgoing mail per month.

Policies and delegated powers

The Department of Corporate Services is in the process of converting all Council’s policies into a standard format, and at the same time reviewing the existing policies. All Council’s policies are contained in an electronic register. During the period in question, numerous policies were submitted to and adopted by Council.

The Department also maintains a register of delegated powers conferred within the Municipality.

Property Administration

Implementation of the Property Rates Act

The Department of Corporate Services was responsible for this project, with the assistance of a multidisciplinary team who frequently met with the appointed valuers, CBRE, to form a Project Steering Committee.

The General Valuation Roll

The General Valuation Roll was advertised on 28 February 2008. The information that was captured by CBRE by means of the Mass Appraisal System as applied to residential erven and standard physical inspections in respect of other erven (industrial, commercial) is summarised as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Properties Valued (General Valuation)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-residential</td>
<td>1 781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-residential Sectional Title (business, etc)</td>
<td>699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant land portions</td>
<td>2 304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sectional Title Residential</td>
<td>4 744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single residential</td>
<td>20 551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>30 287</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With the assistance of the Department of the City Engineer and KwaZulu Natal Local Government and Traditional Affairs (KZNLGTA), technical assessments were done at Msasandla and Port Durnford Centres to determine their suitable uses as well as costs for their refurbishment.

The results were that the Msasandla Centre could qualify as a Further Education and Training College, whilst the Port Durnford Centre would qualify as a Thusong Centre. Talks have also been started with the KZNLGTA to fund the refurbishment of these two centres and finalisation thereof is expected before the end of the 2008/2009 financial year.

For effective service at all community halls, the cleaning component structure was revised to allow for the employment of additional staff as well as the creation of Area Manager positions who will be tasked with the smooth functioning of the component as well as negotiations with service providers to make use of the Thusong Services Centres.
It was evident from the contents of the General Valuation Roll that there were some inconsistencies and omissions which caused concerns with the public as well as the Department. All the queries were systematically recorded and provided to CBRE for attention. However, only 1 713 objections (6%) were eventually received. CBRE immediately commenced with the rectification of the omissions and attended to the queries generated. Such corrections were reflected in the First and the Second Supplementary Rolls. The Second Supplementary Roll was received on 26 May 2008 and dealt with 940 value corrections with a net effect of R985 000 000.00 of value added to the General Valuation Roll. A total of 521 omitted properties were added to the Roll with an addition of R724 000 000,00 to the General Valuation Roll.

Although the updated Metval System is as yet not available for effective integration of the collected valuation data with Council’s systems, the General Valuation Roll, First Supplementary- and Second Supplementary Roll data was transferred as agreed in a consolidated format on 30 May 2008 which enabled integration via other procedures and allowed the billing to proceed at the end of June 2008.

The installation of the Metval System will create a fully integrated property database that will incorporate information traditionally dealt with in an erven register.

This database will incorporate information collected by the valuers as well as building plans, record of ownership and township establishment, etc. This will result in the creation of a General Valuation Roll that is able to reflect the dynamic property data of the uMhlathuze Municipality. The availability of in-house IT expertise was critical in the successful implementation of the above systems.

Way Forward

The Valuations Appeals Board, appointed by the Provincial authorities, will deal with objections not resolved by the valuer.

Supplementary Valuation Rolls will in future be issued periodically and will contain valuations relating to new properties, additions, consolidations and subdivisions, etc.

Land Sales

Notwithstanding the downturn in the market with regard to the sale of residential properties, the Property Section experienced strong interest in the acquisition of General Industrial and Commercial zoned erven.

This tendency bodes well for the continued growth of the City as such developments in turn drive increased demand for residential erven. It is anticipated that the 50 small (+ 3 000 m2) General Industrial erven to the west of TATA Steel and the 18 General Commercial erven to the south of the Boardwalk Shopping Centre, will be snapped up when they are released for sale.

A total of 97 properties were sold during the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 realising an income of R1 31 148 061 for the City Council.

Other property issues

A wide spectrum of property related matters were also dealt with and relate to:

- Sale of the IDZ land to the IDZ company, which included a Shareholders Agreement and Services Agreement.
- Sale of IDZ land to Pulp United for the establishment of a Bleached Chemi Thermo Mechanical Pulp Mill.
- Sale of IDZ land to RBCD for the establishment of a bulk material handling and storage facility for coal, titanium and other materials in Phase 1B of the Industrial Development Zone.
- Sale of IDZ land to Grindrod for the establishment of a bulk material handling and storage facility as well as a rail tipping facility.
- Finalising the transfer of the TATA Steel land.
- Finalisation of the transfer of land to Keystone (extension to Boardwalk Shopping Centre).
- Conclusion of the Navitrade Conveyor servitude agreement.
- Sale of land for the development of the new “Life Style” commercial centre on the + 9 hectare portion behind the Mr Price building, known as the Northern Block. It will comprise, amongst others, of a 27 500 m2 shopping component. Site preparation will commence soon and construction will start on 1 January 2009. A four-star hotel will also be developed.
- Sale of land to the University of Zululand for the establishment of a satellite campus to the south of the Civic Centre.
- The proposed exchange of Erf 7429 Meerensee for Portion 1 of Erf 5494 to enable the extension of the uMfolozi College.
- Discussions with the Zululand Chamber of Business regarding the cancellation of the non-core portion of the lease area.
- Managing the legal procedures pertaining to the alienation of privately owned unserviced erven at eSikhalieni and Ngwelezane.
- Retransfer of government owned erven (i.e. school erven) to the Department of Public Works.
- Liaison with Transnet and Portnet regarding the north eastern port boundary and purchase of the additional area of Pelican Island.
- Implementation of procedures regarding the identification and management of Permissions to Occupy in liaison with the Department of Local Government.
- Extension of the Essenwood Spar Shopping Centre in Arboretum.
- Extension and upgrading of the Swayo Shopping Mall in Empangeni.
- Development of the new eNseleni shopping centre at the eNseleni CBD.
- Phase 2 of the eSikhalieni shopping centre.
- Conclusion of sale agreement for the proposed Casino Resort development. Commencement of construction of the first phase is scheduled for January 2009.
The opening of Alkantstrand Restaurant or “FB’s” by KRS Developments. The new lessees have upgraded the structure at a cost in excess of R500 000 and the restaurant is set to provide a high quality service at the main beach.

Legal Services Section

The main responsibility of the Legal Services Section is to provide a comprehensive, efficient and effective legal service to the uMhlathuze Municipality. By providing a supportive and advisory role, the Section is able to safeguard the Municipality’s interests in all legally related matters, and furthermore ensure that the Municipality’s operations are being conducted within the parameters of the law.

Agreements

During this period the Legal Services Section were involved in the negotiations / drafting and vetting of 436 agreements. This included, amongst others, sale agreements, lease agreements, encroachment agreements, Service Agreements, Indemnities and Wayleave Agreements.

Litigation

The Legal Services Section manages legal action by or against Council and is responsible to institute and/or defend legal action on behalf of Council. The Section also deals with administrative appeals instituted in terms of section 62 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act No 32 of 2000). During this period three such appeals were dealt with.

During this period Council instituted 29 legal actions and three cases were instituted against Council.

Legislation

The Municipality, as a third tier of government, has legislative powers conferred upon it by the Constitution, which enables the Municipality to govern its own affairs by adopting bylaws for this purpose. The uMhlathuze Municipality has adopted a total of 24 bylaws. All the Municipal Bylaws are contained in a Municipal Code published on Council’s website.
Operations and Maintenance

Managerial Overview

Electricity energy purchases from Eskom increased by 39% with a simultaneous demand increase of 33%. The approval of major developments like Tata Steel had a significant impact on the growth in energy and demand as indicated. The graph below reflects the total energy purchased from Eskom and illustrates the trend in energy consumption since July 2006.

![Graph showing energy consumption and demand]

To accommodate this exceptional growth, as shown in the graph, technical requirements had to be adhered to and therefore Phoenix- and Indus substations were built and commissioned especially for Tata Steel as they have become our largest consumer of electricity, surpassing that of Mondi.

Operations and Maintenance

The quality of supply performance remains above the NRS standards, with the exception of the impact “load shedding” had on the electricity industry as a whole. Load shedding has impacted on normal day-to-day maintenance. The lost man-hours can never be recovered, however, staff have done extremely well to provide customers with an excellent service. The long-term impact of load shedding will clearly only be experienced later.

The positive growth of our electrical infrastructure and customer base also increases the demand for skilled manpower resources, and subsequently adds to the backlog of appropriate maintenance.

This section requires desperate measures as far as recruitment of already drained national skills is concerned. The ongoing theft of copper conductor components, is increasingly effecting the supply, or creating hazards and/or risks. Despite an active national campaign by the SAPS on the trading of non-ferrous metals, no change in losses has been experienced.

Plant performance continues satisfactorily and there is a constant drive to improve on the previous performance.

Planning, Development and Technical Services

The 2007/2008 financial year has seen the closure of major electricity capital projects. Tenders were awarded for the construction of two new 132 kV substations and 7 km of overhead power lines to provide the energy needs to Tata Steel. The total contract values amounted to R45m.

In addition to this, the entire protection scheme on the 132 kV backbone had been replaced with state of the art unit protection making use of high speed fibre optic communications. The same fibre optic network will also be utilised for telemetry and SCADA.

As part of a long-term refurbishment plan, all old, obsolete and unserviceable 132 kV isolators will be replaced on a priority basis. Leo substation being one of the older substations was completed and the first isolator refurbishment project at Polaris had been completed where old pantograph style isolators were replaced with modern high voltage isolators in order to provide a further 20 years service to the substation. It is anticipated that this replacement project will extend over a 7-year period.

The following streetlight projects have successfully been completed at a cost of R6.2m:

- Mandlazini at R1.7 million
- MR231 North to N2/Nseleni Intersection at R2.5 million
- John Ross Highway at R2 million
Operational Statistics

• The customer base of uMhlathuze Electricity increased by 4.66% to a combined total of 31,312 customers.
• The Prepayment Customer base has increased by 29%, being mainly due to the taking over of uMhlathuze Village, previously supplied by Eskom and the further development of the area for 800 low cost housing units as well as 250 bank subsidised housing units.
• Under the FBE (Free Basic Electricity) campaign, which is a national drive to assist the poorest of the poor with free electricity, 1,000 customers have converted to the FBE tariff based on all those consuming less than 1,800 kWh per annum. Free Basic Electricity was supplied to 2,000 Eskom customers. Thus in total over 3,000 customers are receiving 50 kWh for free every month.
• Council has seen the good results to actively curb electricity losses with check meters. Firm action is taken against transgressors throughout the area and the weighted average electricity losses have been reduced to below 4%.

Support Services

The high costs of public lighting led to the numbering of poles to positively identify and monitor performance.

A new Streetlight Complaints System has been introduced within the uMhlathuze City area in order to supply a more efficient complaints system. In order to allow the public an opportunity to provide information on lighting that is not working, a call centre was established, which enables the public to lodge street light complaints/notifications through different mediums i.e. telephone contact number, e-mail, WEB interface. Complaints are generally attended to on a same week basis. Where cable faults and pole replacements are concerned, the times may occasionally be exceeded, however where there is cable theft, this will take longer or, where appropriate, alternative measures are introduced.

Non ferrous metal losses amounted to approximately 4000m being stolen.

The estimated cost of the cable is R13 100 per one hundred-metre length, excluding labour.

Complete upgrading of streetlights has been done in the following areas: eSikhaleni, Vulindlela, eNseleni, Ngwelezane. New streetlights were installed at Makhanye village, formerly referred to as uMhlathuze Village.

A number of customers have commented on the use of “yellow” street lights, or high pressure sodium lamps, as opposed to the previously used “blue” mercury vapour lamps. The use of these “yellow” lights is in fact part of an international campaign aimed at reducing the volume of mercury, a highly poisonous substance, in circulation. Most gaseous discharge lamps make use of mercury to heat the sodium or other gas until it starts burning. Sodium discharge lamps, which eliminate the use of mercury, altogether, have been devised. They are in the initial stages of development and their use is still uneconomical. In the mean time crushed lamps are disposed of at a special site at Shongweni where the subterranean structure prevents the egress of mercury into the ground water.

The vehicle and plant fleet consists of 275 vehicles and 136 plant. Based on economical viability merits, seven new additional vehicles were acquired whilst 26 vehicles and one plant were replaced.

All equipment assets were maintained and expenditure limited to within the operational budget. The maintenance team still managed to deliver an excellent level of service under severe pressure of limited resources.

Restructuring of the Electricity Industry in South Africa

Since the cabinet decision of 14 September 2005, virtually all restructuring activities in the Municipality have come to a halt. The City Electrical Engineer represented the City at the DME Portfolio Committee Meeting where he strongly promoted the case of successful distribution of electricity by non-metro municipalities and cautioned against the formation of a national RED.
Functions of the Water Services Authority (WSA) include, among others, water loss management, water services development, water pollution (prevention and control) as well as policies and by-laws.

**WATER LOSS MANAGEMENT**

Unaccounted for water (UFW)

Alongside are graphs depicting unaccounted for water in kilolitre (kl) for the period July 2005 to June 2008 for the City of uMhlathuze.

Projects focused at water loss management include:

- The installation of 2,700 individual domestic meters to the traditional areas, which are now being billed accordingly.
- The ongoing Empangeni Water Network Replacement Programme, which aims to replace all reticulation in stages to address the high water losses in Empangeni.
- The 2007/8 budget provided an amount of R2,86 m for the installation of 50 bulk zone meters and it was decided that the final phase will be handled in-house.

**WATER SERVICES DEVELOPMENT**

**PLANNING AND WATER QUALITY ASSURANCE**

Review of Water Services Development Plan

The Municipality’s Water Services Development Plan (WSDP) forms an integral part of the Integrated Development Plan, as required in terms of the Water Services Act.

Water Quality Assurance

An extensive monitoring programme for drinking water quality and water pollution is in place.

Drinking Water Quality Assurance

Drinking water quality assurance includes the monitoring of Water Treatment Works and reticulation monitoring. Reporting to DWAF on a monthly basis is a legal requirement.
The drinking water quality assurance will in future include the public by means of testing sessions to get the general view on water quality.

**Water Pollution Control**

Waste Water Treatment Works, streams and rivers, water bodies and boreholes are monitored for industrial waste, pump station- and sewer overflows and non-compliances of industry and Water Service Providers (WSP) to national effluent standards.

This monitoring programme enables Council to build up a profile of the quality of all water resources. Trend analysis will in future enable Council to notice changes in the quality of the water resources.

**WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION & CONTROL**

During the past year 319 industrial premises were inspected and audited and 151 environmental surveys were conducted. Ideally the benchmark that is strived for is at least 400 inspections in a 12-month period.

Comments were provided on 56 Environmental Impact Assessments regarding issues of water pollution prevention and environmental protection.

Nineteen notices were issued to companies that did not comply with the Water Services Bylaws. Most of the notices related to storm water pollution as a result of effluent from the premises. It was discovered that most of Empangeni workshops were discharging their effluent directly into the storm water system. They have since complied by providing the required facilities and redirecting effluents into the sewer system. More than 17 permits were issued to various effluent dischargers in order to ensure proper control. A control system has been implemented to prevent the unauthorised discharge of effluent into the Alton macerator.

**Water Services Policies and Bylaws**

Water Services Bylaws were reviewed and Council’s approval was given for the implementation of a water services surcharge to customers receiving water services from Council’s water services provider.

**INSTITUTIONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Water Awareness and Education Campaign**

The Municipality’s Water Services Authority conducted a campaign on water awareness, health and hygiene user education. The campaign covered 25 municipal ward areas and was undertaken with great success with close co-ordination and co-operation between the City Engineer’s Department and the Clinic Services of the Municipality. The Department realised that water use, health and hygiene user education is an ongoing activity.

**Water Services Provider**

**OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

uMhlathuze Municipality owns and operates the following infrastructure that it has built, upgraded and inherited since its establishment. During this time it has had an unprecedented and, to a large degree, exemplary record of service delivery:

**Water**
- 64 Potable water reservoirs that are either on ground level or raised steel-pressed tanks storing up to 260 Mega litres of water
- Over 1 700 km of pipelines of varying material types and diameters with largest being 800mm.
- Water valves
- Pressure reducing valves
- Air valves
- Scour valves
- 7 Pump stations
- 3+1 Treatment works (uMhlathuze river, Lake Mzingazi, Lake Qubhu and Lake Nsezi-uMhlathuze Water Board) treating up to 200 Megalitres per day.
- Meters – approximately 3 000 installed, and increasing into traditional areas. (The WSA branch has already begun assuming this function in a phased approach).

**Waste Water:**
- 623 km of sewer pipes
- 2 Macerator stations
- 4 Treatment works (Vulindlela, eNseleni, Empangeni and eSikhaleini) treating approximately 50MI per day
- 60 Pumpstations, including 136 pumps

Water pump-stations have been upgraded with emergency generators to assist with load shedding exercises so that service delivery is not adversely affected. This will soon be extended to the sewer pump stations.
This and other services include unblocking of sewer mains and odour control at the macerator stations.

All the above are managed, operated and maintained by about 200 professional and semi professional full-time staff of the Water Services Provider (WSP) branch of the City Engineer’s Department.

The WSP branch of the Department provides the above main functions to the 300 000 residents (approximately 75 000 households) within the uMhlathuze Municipal boundaries, 24hrs a day for 365 days a year.

MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

Messrs WSSA has a 3-year contract to manage the bulk operations and maintenance of all nine water services treatment works within the Water Services Authority area. However reticulation responsibilities still remain with the WSP.

STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>uMhlathuze Municipality Counter funding spent to augment above grant funding</td>
<td>R 1 843 807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of projects in various stages of completion</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of job opportunities created in the financial year</td>
<td>89 131 labour days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Capital Budget spent on local labour</td>
<td>R 5 621 023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of people who received accredited training through the projects</td>
<td>935 persons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A review study in terms of Section 78 is currently underway to investigate the options in water services delivery of the maintenance and operations of the reticulation networks by external BEE plumbing contractors.

Council has a maintenance lease contract with Messrs Exelcom cc for the maintenance and upgrading/repair of Council’s potable water and wastewater telemetry/SCADA system. This system provides for the online monitoring of Council’s reservoir levels to maintain continuous service delivery.

Project overviews

The following is a brief description of the projects under control of the Project Management Unit (PMU):

**Madlebe Bulk Water Supply Phase 3A-C**
Phase 3A of the Madlebe Water Supply Project commenced in February 2007 and will be completed during this financial year. The reticulation is being upgraded and meters as well as yard taps are being installed to all households. Phase 3B of the Madlebe Water Supply project commenced in January 2008 and will be completed during March 2009. Phase 3C of the Madlebe Water Supply project will commence in February 2009.

**Dube/Mkhwanazi South Sanitation Project Phase 1 and 2**
Rural Sanitation in all areas under uMhlathuze
A total of 5 000 Ventilated Improved Pit latrines (VIPs) will be installed under each of the two phases of the Dube/Mkhwanazi South Sanitation Project. At the end of the financial year 2 711 VIPs were completed under Phase 1 of the project and Phase 2 commenced in September 2008 and will be completed during October 2009. On completion a total of 5 500 toilets would have been built, of which 500 will be in Mkhwanazi North Area. The Rural Sanitation phase will address the basic sanitation facilities in all traditional areas.

**Dube Bulk Water Supply Scheme**
Funding was obtained to install a bulk water pipeline into the Dube Tribal Area specifically to serve the Gobandlovu and Mandlakala areas. This project commenced in February 2008 and will be completed during March 2009.

**Mzingazi Sanitation**
Funding was obtained to install a water borne sewer system in Mzingazi Village. This project will commence in January 2009 as an Environmental Impact Assessment is required and the latest demarcation boundary had to be incorporated into the design.

**Municipal Funding**
Internal Municipal funding is utilised to ensure that new water and waste water projects are built and existing infrastructure is upgraded to ensure that the level of service rendered to the community can be sustained and that any new developments can be served with water and waste water services.

**Installation of Sewer Reticulation: Ngwelezane IDT Area**
An allocation of R 9,76 m was made available within two financial years (07/08 and 08/09) for this project. A total amount of R5,83 m was spent as at the end of June 2008. The project construction started in November 2007 and will be completed during this financial year.
Empangeni Water Network Improvements
Reticulation pipes in Empangeni are very old in places and required a phased replacement of these pipes. Phase 3 was completed in March 2007. Phase 4 of the Empangeni Water Network Improvement commenced in February 2008 and will be completed during this financial year. A total amount of R4,21 m was spent as at the end of June 2008.

Replacement of Manifold at Mzingazi Water Works
An amount of R5,8 m was spent to replace the pump manifold and start of the rising mains. The existing manifold is more than 30 years old and the risk of failure was high. The new manifold replacement was completed in January 2008. This includes the tie-in of both the 900mm and 600mm steel pipes.

New Forest Reservoir
A new 20Ml reservoir has been built at the Forest Reservoir site in eSikhaleni. The R 15,8m project started in March 2007 and was completed at the end of July 2008. This project was identified to satisfy the increasing demand for potable water in the rural areas and the completion of the supply pipeline to Mtunzini. The total capacity of storage is now 60 Ml per day.

New 9Ml Extension to the eSikhaleni Water Treatment Plant
A new 9Ml per day extension to the eSikhaleni Water Treatment Plant has been built at a cost of R 17,8m. The project duration was March 2007 to July 2008. This extension is required to supply enough potable water to the increasing tribal communities and to supply Mtunzini with potable water through the newly completed Port Durnford Pipeline discussed under the Mkhwanazi South Water Supply Project above. Water is pumped from the treatment plant to the Forest Reservoir and distributed to the Mkhwanazi/Dube Traditional Areas.

Relocation of Bulk Water Pipeline next to Foskor
Council and Foskor will finance the relocation of bulk water pipelines next to Foskor. The work consists of the laying of the 358m of diameter 600 mm GRP pipe, 681 m of diameter 450 mm GRP pipe and 1642m of diameter 350 mm GRP pipe along with chambers, fittings, reducers and valves and all of the necessary work to connect the new pipework to the existing uMhlathuze City supply. The projects commenced in June 2008 and will be completed during this financial year.

Roads and Storm water

Work in progress:

Doubling Main Road Empangeni
The preliminary design, including the public participation meetings required for EIA purposes, was completed. The tender was awarded and construction commenced with the view of completion in February 2009.

eSikhaleni Hostels Upgrade: Phase 1
The contract has been awarded and should commence during this financial year, with an amount of R6m having been budgeted for.

Alton Landfill Site: Closing Stage 2 and Transfer Station
Capping completed. R 500 000 to be spent on additional storm water drainage.

Garden Refuse Transfer Station (Meerensee/Greenhill)

Palisade fencing of reservoirs and electrical substations

Pedestrian Paving and Walkways
Sixteen bridges are being built in the eNseleni, Ngwelezane and eSikhaleni areas by Messrs Impact Plus Trading 392 cc. This is the second contract to date for the construction of bridges and is valued at R1,7 million, to be completed during this financial year.

uMhlathuze Municipality embarked on a programme to build pedestrian bridges using gum poles and timber decking to facilitate better and safer pedestrian access to schools, shops and between communities in the rural areas.

Consulting Engineers, Messrs nDawonye Networks cc based in Richards Bay, were appointed in 2004 to design the desired structures. A catalogue of unique designs were developed to cater for both pedestrian and cattle traffic. These designs have been used successfully to date and achieved the IMESA / SAACE Excellence Award in 2006.

Maintenance of Existing Open Storm Water System: City of uMhlathuze
Ongoing contracts to the value of R 500 000.
Rural Roads
Council has embarked on the enormous task of upgrading rural roads. Plants such as graders, trucks, TLBs (tractor-loader backhoes) have been purchased for this purpose and work is well underway. An amount of R 20 million was provided on the current budget. The year started well with about R10 m worth of roadworks machinery being purchased and R5 m worth of works carried out. The current expenditure amounts to R5 m per quarter.

Finalised work:

Maintenance: Rail Private Sidings
The work was carried out as per budget value R654 000

Alton North: Phase 3: Helium Hoogte-Ferrogang Cluster, Richards Bay
All services have been installed.

Upgrading of Arboretum/Alton Road Link: Phase 2, Richards Bay
Work commenced in January 2007 and has been completed.

Ngwelezane Swimming Pool
Although the project commenced during the previous financial year it was completed during this financial year.

Upgrade of Storm Water Gemini Outfall, Empangeni
Work commenced in March 2007 and has been completed.

Ngwelezane: South Access (Road U252)
Work commenced in May 2007 and has been completed.

Tanner Road Upgrade: Empangeni
This project was carried over from the previous financial year and has been completed to a value of R5,43 million.

Support Services

The Design and Information Section has continued to provide design input on a number of internally allocated capital projects such as roads, water and sanitation infrastructure. Furthermore the Section has also provided extensive assistance to all departments in the organisation with regards to ad hoc surveys, draughting and designs covering a wide range of department specific issues. To date 105 such projects have been attended to in this reporting period.

The acquisition of a Trimble R8 GN55/R6/5800 GPS enables the Section to establish survey control in the remote rural areas, which will directly assist with service infrastructure expansion in these areas.

The Information subsection successfully completed the installation, implementation and conversion to an electronic plan filing system. This system allows for the conversion of hard copy drawings to an electronic format via a scanning process.

The system currently houses approximately 10 000 drawings on a single desktop computer which has realised a substantial saving on floor space made available for other purposes.

GIS UPGRADE AND EXPANSION PROJECT

The GIS Upgrade project commenced in March 2006 with Phase 1 and Phase 2 concentrating primarily on data capturing and a complete system enhancement respectively. The move from the original GIS system Civil Designer Map and it’s associated MS Access database platform to ArcView utilising Oracle as the database warehouse has paved the way for equipping the City of uMhlathuze with a fully functional and integrated corporate GIS.

Phase 1 and 2 have been completed and it is envisaged that a third phase will shortly be implemented to further enhance data capture and a minor systems expansion. A revised Digital Orthophoto base covering the whole of KZN was acquired in September 2006 and provides valuable information at one’s finger tips especially in the more remote rural areas. Council’s GIS website has also undergone a redesign and will shortly be made available worldwide.

The above GIS initiative forms part of the Council’s overall Information Technology Strategy and is the culmination of some 20 years of effort in establishing a fully functional corporate GIS for the City of uMhlathuze, which is already the envy of many Municipalities in the region.

GMS UPGRADE

A new software application system called GMS (Gijima Maintenance System) was developed in-house by GijimaAst and successfully commissioned on 1 July 2007. The move from the original Maintenance Logistic System (MLS) to the new opened sourced, web-based application has equipped the City of uMhlathuze with a fully functional and integrated maintenance system.

The GMS User Work Group under convenorship of the City Engineer’s Department provides a pivotal role in both the establishing and maintaining of the corporate GMS system. It is envisaged that during the second phase of the development, Council’s fleet management and Treasury’s asset management will also be integrated with GMS and the GIS Systems. The above GMS project forms part of Council’s overall IT strategy.
Departmental Overview

All sections within the Department of the Chief Financial Officer performed exceptionally well during the year under review. All financial reporting deadlines were met and Council received an unqualified Audit Report for 2006/2007.

The Draft Financial Statements for the 2007/2008 were prepared on time and are currently being audited by the office of the Auditor General. The Statement of Financial Performance reflects an operating surplus of R65.4 million.

Part of the surplus will again be used to subsidise tariffs to consumers in ensuing years.

Staff turnover in the Department was relatively low during the year and contributed positively to good financial management. Approval was received from Council to capacitate various sections within the Department in order to comply with legislation. It is envisaged that these positions will be filled during the 2008/2009 year.

Policy Reviews

Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy

Council’s reviewed Credit Control & Debt Collection Policy came into operation on 1 August 2007, which facilitated improved results in debt collection during the year.

New Valuation Roll

A new valuation roll was implemented. Rates are now based on the market value of the property, including improvements. Sectional Title properties are also rated individually.

Other Key Accomplishments

With the implementation of the new valuation roll, the rates tariffs in all areas within the Municipality are now equalised. Farms are now also rated but receive a rebate. Extensive rebates are also given to public benefit organisations and sporting bodies.

The tariff increases for the new financial year were kept below the annual CPI for all tariffs with the exception of the electricity tariffs due to the high increase from Eskom.

The delivery of services to Felixton Village, with the exception of electricity, was taken over by Council. During this year Council also took over the electricity supply to the village. Electricity to the residential customers is done via prepayment metering.
### Annual Debt Collection Rate

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<td>2007</td>
<td>103.47</td>
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<tr>
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<td>98.98</td>
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### Annual Tariff Increases

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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>10.00%</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>5.9%</td>
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<td>6.00%</td>
<td>14.00%</td>
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### Operating Expenditure for the year ended 30/06/2008 and multi-year budget for 2008/2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>07/08 Budget</th>
<th>07/08 Adjusted Budget</th>
<th>07/08 Actual</th>
<th>08/09 Budget</th>
<th>09/10 Projected</th>
<th>10/11 Projected</th>
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<td>18,562</td>
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<td>18,790</td>
<td>19,971</td>
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<td>9,590</td>
<td>4,732</td>
<td>7,574</td>
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<td>13,189</td>
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Capital Expenditure for the year ended 30/06/2008 and multi-year budget for 2008/2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>07/08 Budget</th>
<th>07/08 Adjusted Budget</th>
<th>07/08 Actual</th>
<th>08/09 Budget</th>
<th>09/10 Projected</th>
<th>10/11 Projected</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Safety</td>
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<td>Sport and Recreation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waste Water Management</td>
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<td>18,692</td>
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<tr>
<td>Road Transport</td>
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<td>117,358</td>
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<td>135,523</td>
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<td>85,230</td>
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</table>
Community Facilitation and Marketing

Marketing

In 2007 the Municipality engaged a brand and communications consultant to compile and formulate a new Branding and Marketing Strategy for uMhlathuze Municipality. This involved auditing the existing strategy, to promote the City on other marketing facets rather than heavy industry. The end take is that this strategy now seeks to be responsive to the City’s Vision, that of positioning the City of uMhlathuze, as a favourable port city, offering improved quality of life for all its citizens through sustainable development and being a renowned centre for Trade, Tourism, Coastal Recreation, Commerce, Industry, Forestry and Agricultural investments.

Council has adopted this strategy in principle and Phase 1 of the implementing strategy, which encompasses brand management and internal marketing, has been commenced with.

In the last financial year marketing has facilitated investment of the various industries in the area, with other investments in the pipeline on a continuous basis.

Facilitation of this has been achieved partly through the cooperation of other stakeholders outside the municipality, including the Industrial Development Zone Company (IDZ), Zululand Chamber Commerce and Industry (ZCCI) Trade and Investment (TIKZN) and others.

Outdoor Advertising

Bylaws relating to outdoor advertising have been successfully consolidated and aligned with the South African Manual for Outdoor Advertising Control, an initiative by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. The manual aims to provide local government and private enterprise with acceptable guidelines for opportunities and control of outdoor advertising and also to make allowance for new advertising techniques and methods to be developed.

Outdoor advertising in uMhlathuze is growing at an accelerated rate, possibly as a result of the City’s commercial fast-paced development. Simultaneously, innovations outside the traditional advertising platforms have begun placing pressure on the flexibility of our advertising policies and our by-laws have been adapted to accommodate these changes.

In the 2007 / 2008 financial year R934 665,00 was received in respect of application fees, rental and approval fees plus a further R44 233,28 for temporary advertising rights (a total of R978 898,28).
Of the 147 applications for permanent advertising rights, 122 were approved in accordance with Council's bylaws. A number of focused campaigns were launched over the past year.

Empangeni and Richards Bay are comparatively advanced with regards to establishing proper advertising sites. This Department is moving towards establishing the same standards of management and control throughout the City in respect of outdoor advertising so as to expose more opportunities in the other municipal areas outside Empangeni and Richards Bay.

**Public Relations and Tourism**

2007/2008 was an eventful year for tourism in the City, with sporting events dominating the sector. The City successfully hosted the World Triathlon BG Championships, Formula 1 power-boating, the World Trolling Championships and various angling competitions, which attracted visitors both nationally and internationally.

The tourism identity was also enhanced by cultural events such as the uMhlathuze music competition to which music producers were invited to scout for talent. Two groups were earmarked for further recording deals.

The City hosted its annual Zulu cultural dance. The winners of the various categories represented uMhlathuze at the district competition where uMhlathuze’s Isiko LikaZulu won the Indlamu category.

A group of about 240 young maidens from the City’s four traditional areas also participated in the annual Reed Dance in Nongoma, eNyokeni.

To grow performing arts in the area the City partnered with the Department of Arts, Culture and Tourism. A group of 10 youngsters were auditioned and selected to receive further training and one was selected to join the cast of Umtunzini.com, an SABC 1 weekly drama.

The City, together with five other municipalities of the uThungulu District, participated in the International Trade and Investment Conference in Durban.

A highlight was the City’s hosting of the internationally acclaimed Peaceboat with its 1 300 passengers. The Peaceboat is a Japan-based international non-governmental and non-profit organisation that works to promote peace, human rights, equal and sustainable development and respect for the environment. The visit had spin-offs for local tourism including retailers, informal traders and food outlets. During the three-day stopover visitors also had the pleasure of visiting the nearby Hluhluwe Game Reserve and iSimangaliso Wetlands Parks. Some also went as far as the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands.

Once again the uMhlathuze Beach Festival kicked off the December holiday season in grand style. For the first time the festival was held over three days and was branded as “Ziyenzeka Together” meaning “together we can do it” so as to encourage all communities of the City as well as visitors to come together and enjoy the festivities and amenities at Alkantstrand.

A successful State of the City Address, which was attended by over 3 000 members of the community, was held at the Richards Bay Central Sports Complex. The theme was “Dawn of a New Era” and focused on accomplishments during the year. This was the first time that the event was held during the day and it was well received by the community.

**Museum**

The Museum hosted a new display every alternate month with some displays having to be extended to two months due to public demand. Several local artists displayed their artworks ranging from paintings, drawings and sculptures.

The biannual Mondi Eisteddfod took place and schools from the uMhlathuze area and as far as Hluhluwe and Pongola participated. This exhibition was a showcase of young talent in our local schools. Due to its popularity the exhibition had to be extended over a four-month period to enable all the schools to visit the Museum. Numerous students won prizes and bursaries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Richards Bay</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alton</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meerensee</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birdswood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Empangeni</td>
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<tr>
<td>eSikhaleni</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arboretum</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not approved</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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A number of our local crafters works went to Gallagher Estate for showcasing during August. The Museum in conjunction with The Natal Arts Trust is slowly building a small but comprehensive collection of craftwork to showcase the talent in the different areas of KZN. This Exhibition will be shown in the Museum and will eventually tour the province to the other regional galleries.

Apart from all the exhibitions, the Museum’s Art Gallery had the opportunity of acquiring a number of beautiful pieces of artwork to add to its collection of KZN artists. These works are shown on a rotating basis in the Gallery to prevent extensive exposure to light and other factors that will cause damage in the long run.

► Housing

Hostel Refurbishment

Council is still grappling with its hostel refurbishment programme, which has proven to be multi dimensional in view of the intricacies involved. The following steps have been taken in an effort to accelerate the process:

More than 92 permanent alternative houses are in the process of being completed in the uMhlathuze Village low-income housing project. This strategic move aims to alleviate and facilitate the efficient return of people to the upgraded units.

Zingwazi Contractors has been appointed to construct the temporary housing camp at J1985 at eSikhaleni suburb. This approach is crucial in facilitating a hassle free refurbishment process.

Council has also appointed Qiniseka Construction to undertake the refurbishment of 108 units situated at three hostels.

There is a sense of enthusiasm that the successful implementation of this phase should signal significant progress that will in turn restore public confidence

New Housing Projects

In line with the approved Municipal Housing Sector Plan, Council in collaboration with its Provincial counterparts has moved to implement some of the prioritised projects. Two Implementing Agents have been appointed for the Aquadene project and Kwa-Bhejane project. Council together with the community is looking forward to the finalisation of all prerequisite studies and processes so that the actual construction of houses for people can be commenced with.

► Community Facilitation

Outreach Programmes and Public Participation

In its quest to reach out to the community in order create positive impressions, the Municipality successfully hosted the following:

• 16 Days of Activism at eNseleni rural area,
• State of the Nation Address at Mpembeni rural area,
• Senior citizen day at eSikhaleni suburb and
• Vulnerable Children’s Day at Shalom Centre, Brackenham

Ward Committee Support Programme

Council is continuing with its programmes aimed at enhancing its Ward Committee support system. To this effect, an in depth workshop on secretariat duties has been conducted. In order to build an understanding of the service rendering dimension, rural ward cluster visits to various depots, such as water purification plants and other facilities were organised. This was designed to reinforce the need to pay for services and operational activities to sustain such service.

Council also resolved to review the “out of pocket” allowances from R50 per meeting to R100. Though this amount is still minimal it is an improvement, and especially when taking into consideration the fact that the local government laws explicitly forbid any form of remuneration to ward committees. Efforts aimed at further improving the payment system are at an advanced stage.
Two key performance areas, which really stood out for Waste Management this year were the recycling initiative and the Cleanest Town Competition.

Managing Your Environment

The residents of Meerensee continued their effort to recycle household waste by participating in the Curbside Recycling Project. The tireless efforts of Lucky Mthiyane and his crew at the Meerensee Bus Rank has kept the project alive, taking out almost two hundred tons of recyclable material from the domestic waste stream in the past year alone.

The recycling programme will be extended into the other suburbs as well, including eSikhaleni, Arboretum and Birdswood. With continued efforts from the residents and the broader community, job creation can be extended to every suburb within the City of uMhlathuze.

International Coastal Cleanup

Once again Waste Management participated in the International Coastal Cleanup organised by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

uMhlathuze Municipality, in conjunction with the Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, coordinated this year’s event locally. The strategic placement of bins and the handing out of bags to collect waste resulted in over eight tons of waste being collected. This included all the beaches, the harbour, New Mouth, Port Durnford and the coastal waterway, Lake Nsezi.

Children from all the schools as well as representatives of the different clubs and the large industrial giants like Mondi, Alusaf, Richards Bay Minerals, Foskor and Bell Equipment participated.

KwaZulu-Natal Cleanest Town Competition

uMhlathuze Municipality annually participates in the Cleanest Town Competition and has either won first prize or been the runner-up since the inception of the competition. Proudly this year was no exception with the City being named the runner-up.

This year emphasis was placed on Waste Management’s activities in the rural communities such as a project aimed at providing the rural communities with an alternate source of firewood by supplying pallets and crates used by industry. Industries receive goods on pallets or in crates, which are delivered to the Alton drop-off point where the wood is then sorted and distributed for firewood and building material in the rural areas. Apart from recycling waste this has the added advantage of reducing the number of indigenous trees being cut down for firewood.

The Cleanest Town Competition was challenging in that uMhlathuze Municipality has a large rural community, which together with the scattering of suburbs makes it more difficult to keep and maintain the City clean at all times.

More than 70 skips are strategically placed throughout the rural community for the placement of domestic waste. The communities assist in keeping their environment clean, and waste and littering awareness is brought home in a real way.
Environmental Health Services perform numerous functions some of which are incorporated under Municipal Health Services, which in terms of the National Health Act No. 61 Of 2003, include:

- Water quality monitoring
- Food control
- Waste management
- Health surveillance of premises
- Surveillance and prevention of communicable diseases, excluding immunisation
- Vector control
- Environmental pollution control
- Disposal of the dead
- Chemical safety

General Overview and Main Achievements

No local transmission of malaria occurred within the City of uMhlathuze during the period under review. Malaria continues to be closely monitored by all stakeholders and the malaria case investigations revealed that the reported cases were contracted from the far northern areas of KwaZulu-Natal and neighboring Southern African countries and were therefore classified as imported cases.

Six (6) positive rabies cases were reported in animals within the jurisdiction of the City of uMhlathuze during the year under review.

The State Veterinarian, various health departments, and Nuisance officers campaigned to raise public awareness of the importance of vaccinating dogs and cats against rabies. In conjunction with the State Veterinarian, the City of uMhlathuze has held bi-annual rabies campaigns during the year as well as monthly clinics at various venues throughout the municipal area in an attempt to decrease the number of cases.

Statistics

The following inspections and investigations were conducted during the year under review:

- 719 Investigations of Environmental Health complaints were undertaken.
- 1 025 Inspections of vacant overgrown properties
- 2 879 Inspections of food premises
- 147 Samples were taken in terms of the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act.
- 59 214 Kilograms of unsound foodstuffs were destroyed as they were unfit for human consumption.
- 518 Inspections were carried out at child care facilities
- 205 Inspections were carried out at bed and breakfasts establishments.
- 192 Building plans were scrutinised from a health point of view.
- 97 Inspections at funeral parlours
- 32 investigations of cases of malaria, three cases of measles and one case of mumps was undertaken
- 120 Animal bites were recorded and investigated
- 6 834 Animals were vaccinated against rabies at the monthly clinic at the Veldenvlei Hall and the SPCA mobile rabies vaccination clinic, during the rabies vaccination campaigns.
- 43 Health education sessions were undertaken attended by 1 291 people.
- 44 Pauper burial applications were approved and burials undertaken by Council.
Community Based Crime Prevention

The Community Safety Forum has decided to implement CCTV cameras over the next few months starting with a pilot project in the 2008/2009 financial year.

Clinic Services

Apart from meeting its core responsibilities of providing a comprehensive and integrated primary health care service to the community as well as an occupational health service to the employees of the uMhlathuze Municipality, Clinic Services initiated a number of important projects.

Garden Project for Mzingazi

The rising number of child-headed households, the high unemployment rate and the level of poverty in the Mzingazi community led to the Clinic Services launching a garden project. The introduction of small-scale vegetable gardens is aimed at helping to feed needy households.

With the assistance of the uThungulu District Municipality, plant seed was handed to the community to start their gardens.

16 Days of Activism

Clinic Services co-ordinated an event to promote the 16 Days of Activism Against Women and Child Abuse, which included World AIDS Day and Human Rights Day. The Mayor and Councillors supported the event by signing a pledge against Women and Child Abuse.

HIV/AIDS Awareness

Several projects and events were held to create HIV/AIDS awareness, the most significant of which was the launch of the uMhlathuze Aids Council (CouAC) in July 2007. CouAC will drive the City’s multi-sectoral fight against HIV/AIDS with the aim of eradicating the disease in the City by 2020.

Encouraging Healthy Children

At the beginning of 2008 Clinic Services introduced the new Td (Diftavax) vaccine, in line with the country’s Expanded Programme on Immunisation. The new vaccine is administered at 6 years and 12 years and replaces the old DT vaccine.

In addition Clinic Services participated in several campaigns of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health, including a vitamin A campaign for children under five years of age.

CouAC aims to reach out to the community by making use of civic organisations, CBGs, FBOs, councillors, NGOs, schools and churches to support its four pillars, namely:

- Education, prevention and awareness
- Home-based care
- Orphans and vulnerable children
- Income generating activities

During October 2007 motivational speaker, Patricia Mthiyane was invited by the Richards Bay Clinic to share her experience of living with HIV with community members and to encourage people to get tested and know their HIV status.

In addition Clinic Services held a quilt workshop in November 2007 for people affected by HIV/AIDS. During the workshop sensitive issues were discussed in an open manner and participants shared how HIV affected them, and made quilt panels to depict the stories they had told.

Feeding the Needy

In February 2008 the City of uMhlathuze received a ton of maize meal for distribution to needy children. The maize was a monthly donation received by uThungulu District Municipality from Empangeni Milling.

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Preventable disease conditions are prevalent in the City. New cases reported from July 2007 to June 2008 include:

Owing to the link between TB and HIV, TB positive patients are encouraged to visit the VCT Clinic to determine their HIV status. If found to be HIV positive, a CD4 cell count test is done and patients are enrolled at Ngwelezane Hospital’s Thembalethu Clinic for antiretroviral treatment where necessary.

Fire and Rescue Services had a busy and successful year responding to the following:

Traffic and Licencing

The Traffic and Motor Licencing Section of the uMhlathuze Municipality received a service excellence award from KwaZulu-Natal Transport Minister, Bheki Cele in recognition of the high standard of service the Municipality renders to its residents as a vehicle registering authority and drivers’ licence testing facility.

The award acknowledges that there was not a single complaint of corruption made against the Licencing Section. In addition there were very few public complaints and no serious audit complaints made. The accompanying prize money of R50 000 was used to improve the eNatis system introduced nationwide at the beginning of 2007.

In addition Traffic Law Enforcement received an award from Business Against Crime Zululand for their contribution towards crime prevention initiatives for the 2007/2008 financial period.
The total damage caused by fire was R137 972 400.00 whilst the estimated value of property threatened by fire was R1 293 595 400.00.

Rural Metro continues to operate the Vulindlela and eNseleni fire stations, each of which has two purpose-built specialised vehicles.

Notable incidents attended by Fire and Rescue Services include:

- A train fire at Mtunzini train station.
- A fire at Slovo Camp in Kwambonambi where 85 informal dwellings were gutted by fire.
- A structural fire at Bhejane Street, Mhawu Reserve where two people were trapped inside the house and rescued by personnel.
- A factory trading in auto spares in the Empangeni Rail was gutted by fire. Damages to the structure and contents were estimated at more than R8 million.
- Two student hostel rooms caught alight at the University of Zululand owing to two plate electrical stoves being left unattended.
- A fire at a church in Veldenvlei. The cause of the smouldering smoke in the church was due to arcing and short-circuiting at the electricity port where a piano was connected.
- At Berth 702 a ship’s hull burnt. Welding and cutting was the cause of this fire.
- A fire at Bell Equipment in Alton where an extractor fan inside a paint drying room caught alight. The fire appears to have been caused by a flammable mixture of paint fumes, extracted air with heat (friction or arcing of live wires driving the extraction fans).
- A structural fire at Hla Hla Mews in Arboretum. The fire involved a three bedroom flat started in the kitchen as a result of a stove left unattended during load shedding.
- A Pet Shop at 4 Ukhula Street, Empangeni burnt down. A fire investigation was carried out and the burning patterns of the contents suggested that the fire appeared to have started from the area in close proximity to the air-conditioner.

Notable Rescues Performed by Fire Brigade Personnel:

- A motor vehicle accident on the N2/Penicuik involving three vehicles. An adult female and two adult males died due to injuries.
- A person was rescued after being trapped underneath a tractor at Sokhulu in the Kwambonambi area.
- A motor vehicle accident on the B10 at UVS where three people were entrapped in their vehicles and lost their lives. Ten people were injured and received medical treatment.

General

- A motor vehicle accident on the MR 166 at the Matshana turn-off involving two light motor vehicles and a heavy-duty motor vehicle. Two people were entrapped and lost their lives. One person was seriously injured and medically treated.
- Six drowning incidents were attended to.

Fire & Rescue Services personnel attended to a bomb threat at Ngwelezane Hospital. The scene was investigated and later declared safe.

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- A factory trading in auto spares in the Empangeni Rail was gutted by fire. Damages to the structure and contents were estimated at more than R8 million.
- Two student hostel rooms caught alight at the University of Zululand owing to two plate electrical stoves being left unattended.
- A fire at a church in Veldenvlei. The cause of the smouldering smoke in the church was due to arcing and short-circuiting at the electricity port where a piano was connected.
- At Berth 702 a ship’s hull burnt. Welding and cutting was the cause of this fire.
- A fire at Bell Equipment in Alton where an extractor fan inside a paint drying room caught alight. The fire appears to have been caused by a flammable mixture of paint fumes, extracted air with heat (friction or arcing of live wires driving the extraction fans).
- A structural fire at Hla Hla Mews in Arboretum. The fire involved a three bedroom flat started in the kitchen as a result of a stove left unattended during load shedding.
- A Pet Shop at 4 Ukhula Street, Empangeni burnt down. A fire investigation was carried out and the burning patterns of the contents suggested that the fire appeared to have started from the area in close proximity to the air-conditioner.

Notable Rescues Performed by Fire Brigade Personnel:

- A motor vehicle accident on the N2/Penicuik involving three vehicles. An adult female and two adult males died due to injuries.
- A person was rescued after being trapped underneath a tractor at Sokhulu in the Kwambonambi area.
- A motor vehicle accident on the B10 at UVS where three people were entrapped in their vehicles and lost their lives. Ten people were injured and received medical treatment.

General

- A motor vehicle accident on the MR 166 at the Matshana turn-off involving two light motor vehicles and a heavy-duty motor vehicle. Two people were entrapped and lost their lives. One person was seriously injured and medically treated.
- Six drowning incidents were attended to.
Land Use Management

Land Use Management has two main aspects in urban areas being management of both land development and of land use. The "Town Planning Scheme" or land use zoning schemes, which have been the central instruments of land use management within South Africa, have generally segregated different land uses and densities from one another, as well as insisting upon a certain standard of building setbacks or building lines, densities, height factors and other aspects of layout.

Central Government has recently initiated a different approach to managing land. The new system, aptly named as a “Land Use Management System”, is in the process of being drafted and will in future determine how land uses will be managed within the City of uMhlathuze.

The Land Use Management Section consists of:

Development Control Section - to deal with issues such as consent use applications, management of the town planning schemes, rezonings, subdivisions, consolidations, aesthetics, etc. by making use of the relevant legislative framework.

Building Control Section – to deal with applications for building plan approval and related inspections.

Draughting Office – to support the organisation with the draughting of plans, and also to keep records of all Surveyor General diagrams, plans, frameworks, etc.

Development Planning

Proposed Residential Development on the Empangeni Golf Course

In partnership with the Empangeni Country Club, a Task Team was established consisting of key municipal officials, the ward councillor and representatives from the Empangeni Country Club to further investigate the proposed residential development on the Empangeni Golf Course. A survey of the golf course has identified appropriate areas for residential development that will not be in conflict with golfing activities. These areas are located near existing services and access can be provided from existing roads. In total 6,5067 ha of land is available to develop 13 low- and 174 medium density residential units on the periphery of the Empangeni Golf Course. It is conservatively estimated that Council will generate R20 million income from the sale of the land. The footprint area has been grouped into three pockets of land to be sold via three separate public tenders.
Subdivision of Erven 8511 and 8552, Birdswood

The subdivision of Erven 8511 and 8552, Birdswood will create approximately 48 residential erven. The rezoning of the properties has been approved and the Basic Assessment and Heritage Assessment has been finalised. An application needs to be submitted under the National Forests Act & Nature Conservation Ordinance to the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry as well as Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife for their consideration.

Ngwelezane Greenfield Residential Development

The two phases of the Ngwelezane Greenfields project are located on the north-eastern periphery of the existing urban fabric of A Section. The P166 provincial road known as the Western Bypass Road is situated in close proximity to the east of the properties. Access to the properties is gained from Ngwelezane Highway via Hlanganani Road, Makhosonke Road and Thandaza Crescent. A tender process has been initiated to procure the services of an Environmental Assessment Practitioner and Town Planner to prepare a layout plan and conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in order to obtain environmental authorisation. The Ngwelezane Greenfields Project will be divided into the following two phases:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Zoning</th>
<th>Current Land Use</th>
<th>Number of erven</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Erf A1284</td>
<td>13,467ha</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>Undetermined</td>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td>216 erven on Draft Layout Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Erven A2293 – A 2446</td>
<td>8,5956ha</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>Undetermined</td>
<td>Vacant with Urban Agriculture on the edges</td>
<td>153 Erven on approved Layout Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>22,063 ha</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>369 Erven</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hillview Extension, Empangeni

The extension of Hillview suburb in Empangeni consists of approximately 195 erven. Town planning approval has been acquired and a land surveyor has undertaken the final statutory survey. Environmental authorisation is now required in order to service the respective erven.

Settlement Plans for eSikhaleni and Port Durnford Rural Nodes

The preparation of the concept settlement plans identified certain challenges that need to be addressed by all key role players involved, highlighting the need for ongoing liaison between Council and the Traditional Leaders. Protocol also needs to be established between Council, the Traditional Leadership, the Ingonyama Trust Board and the Department of Traditional Affairs. Consensus needs to be reached by all role players on the spatial allocation of land uses and its ongoing management before any further concept settlement plans can be prepared for other rural nodes.

The framework plans prepared for the rural nodes are adequate to guide the future upgrade of rural roads in these areas. The issue of funding and responsibility of the roads need to be clarified with the Department of Transport.

Land use management is required in the rural areas in conjunction with land tenure allocations to promote economic development and to ensure environmentally responsible and safe development. The issue of settlements in service corridors, floodplains and land uses in environmentally sensitive areas need to be addressed.

These challenges will be addressed by the proposed Traditional Leadership Liaison Forum and Joint Development Forums before any further concept settlement plans are prepared for the other rural nodes.
Upgrade and Expansion of the A-Rank Empangeni

Empangeni A Rank is to get a much-needed upgrade by leasing Council-owned property to a private developer on a long-term basis.

The redevelopment of A Rank forms part of the Empangeni Revitalisation Plan and aims to:

- Enlarge the facility in order to cater for all public transport needs in the Empangeni CBD.
- Create separate bus and taxi ranking and holding areas to prevent conflict.
- Create a petrol filling facility with ancillary uses for taxis to empower the local industry.
- Allow for commercial development on the proposed rank to enhance convenience for users.
- Develop a holding area for taxis during non-peak times.
- Integrate all fragmented taxi/bus activities in the urban complex.
- Empower the local taxi business to conclude joint ventures with the developers of the rank.
- Improve pedestrian movement from the rank facility to the CBD and reduce congestion at the various intersections close to A Rank.
- Enhance the entrance to and from the rank.

The first phase of the redevelopment consists of a petrol filling facility with ancillary uses, such as a tyre repair facility, a holding area for taxis and a component for commercial development not exceeding 5 000 square metres.

The proposal calls to redevelop the affected properties into a rank with commercial and petrol filling facilities, and the present filling station and limited commercial sites in Extension 33 into residential properties.

The re-development of Empangeni A Rank in Extension 33 of Empangeni will result in a major upgrade of public transport services in the town’s CBD. The portion of land on the opposite side of Main Road, near the cemetery (1), will be incorporated into the project and the existing rank will be expanded (2).

These two sites will be rezoned to cater for a mix of ranking and commercial development along with a portion of land on the corner of Main Road and the Western Bypass (3), which has been earmarked for a filling station. Sites (4) and (5) are currently respectively zoned “Filling Station” and “Limited Commercial” but will be consolidated and rezoned to allow for the development of five “Special Residential” sites. Apart from the proposed residential sites there are already five General Residential 2 erven available for purchase in Extension 33 (a to e).

Seven Development Projects
Seven development projects have been identified and divided into the following two phases:

**Phase 1:**
1. Water Works Node
2. Retirement Village and Medium Density Residential Village
3. The Ridge
4. Meerensee CBD Upgrade – East
5. Meerensee CBD Upgrade – South

**Phase 2 (to be addressed in due course):**
1. Zumanzi Canal Node
2. Eco-Estate

The following tenders were awarded in respect of Phase 1:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tender</th>
<th>Tender Description</th>
<th>Successful Tenderer</th>
<th>Development Cost (Million)</th>
<th>Price Offer (Million)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/2/1/242</td>
<td>Water Works Node</td>
<td>JT Properties and Developments</td>
<td>R 190</td>
<td>R 21 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/2/1/243</td>
<td>Retirement Village</td>
<td>Indlovu Partnership</td>
<td>R 362</td>
<td>R 24 400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/2/1/244</td>
<td>Ridge</td>
<td>Crystal Lagoon Invest cc</td>
<td>R 362</td>
<td>R 33 600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/2/1/246</td>
<td>Meerensee CBD Extension South</td>
<td>Coinad Properties and Investments</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>R 2 075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/2/1/247</td>
<td>Meerensee CBD Extension East</td>
<td>Mr. S. Binaris</td>
<td>R 42</td>
<td>R 4 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The finalisation of the sale and services agreements between the respective developers and Council are now underway, whereafter the developers will proceed with their township establishment and environmental approval applications.
Local Economic Development

On 8 April 2008 Council Adopted a Local Economic Development Strategy with the following key focus areas:

- Aggressive investment destination marketing and facilitation
- Manufacturing clustering for growth
- Soft Infrastructure for competitive advantage
- Implementation of learnerships, skills programmes and internship
- Establishment of UNIZUL city campus
- Call Centre in Richards Bay
- Jobs created by Tourism
- Develop and Implement a Tourism Marketing Strategy
- Visitor Information and Signage
- Tourism Training
- Jobs created by Agricultural activities
- Agricultural Partnerships
- Strengthening local stake in commerce
- To “buy local”

Skills Development

A community skills audit has been used as the reference point for community skills development training.

The following skills training was implemented in 2007/2008:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training</th>
<th>Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Training</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>R 325 831.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bookkeeping and Business English</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>R 199 000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Training</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Funded by DED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Training</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>Funded by DoA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumbing</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>R 184 000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welding</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>R 169 600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>485</strong></td>
<td><strong>R 877, 831.56</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Business Support

SMME (Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises) Information Workshops were conducted throughout the City of uMhlathuze during June 2008. These workshops were aimed at assisting aspiring entrepreneurs and promoting self-development.

Co-operative relationships were established with other partner institutions during these workshops, which included Ithala, Department of Economic Development, Small Enterprise Development Agency, Department of Agriculture, University of Zululand, the Zululand Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Business Partners, and uThungulu District Municipality.

Agricultural Support

Council accepted an Agricultural Support Plan during October 2007, the main objectives being:

- To contribute towards unlocking the inherent potential for agricultural development
- To ensure a co-ordinated approach towards agricultural development.
- To promote the creation of agricultural-based employment opportunities
- To promote the creation of food security, resulting in sustainable agri-businesses
- To ensure the development of farming communities from subsistence, to small, to emerging, to commercial
- To promote the transfer of skills and experience in respect of agriculture.
Agricultural support in the form of materials and equipment was provided to the following wards:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO.</th>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Beneficiaries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ward 1</td>
<td>Mzingazi Village</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ward 10</td>
<td>KwaDlangezwa</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ward 11</td>
<td>Ntuze Area</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ward 20</td>
<td>eSikhaleni –J1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>eSikhaleni-J2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ward 21</td>
<td>eSikhaleni –H2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ward 27</td>
<td>Ngwelezane-Jabalani</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ngwelezane-Cartage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ward 28</td>
<td>Ngwelezane/ Shayamoya</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ward 6</td>
<td>eNseleni</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Ward 15</td>
<td>eSikhaleni</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Ward 19</td>
<td>eSikhaleni</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Ward 22</td>
<td>eSikhaleni</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Ward 23</td>
<td>Empangeni/ Hillview</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Ward 25</td>
<td>Ngwelezane/ Dondolo</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL: 615</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Both the Department of Agriculture and the Municipality are monitoring the projects. The support provided by Council to agricultural small-scale farmers is provided as follows:

**Phase 1**
- Materials and equipment
- Agricultural Training
- Continuous monitoring

**Phase 2**
- Mentorship
- Business Training
- Additional materials as required
- Continuous monitoring

**Phase 3**
- Quarterly monitoring
- Assistance to ensure self sustainability

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**Integrated Development Planning**

uMhlathuze’s integrated planning process is based and influenced by policies and planning processes at local, district, provincial and national levels. It is the intention of the Municipality to contribute towards growth and development within the uThungulu District, KwaZulu-Natal and South Africa.

uMhlathuze Municipality has made substantial progress with regards to the way the Integrated Development Plan is driven. Central to the preparation of the 2008/2009 Integrated Development Plans, it was ensured that a structured public participation process was run to allow the process to be community driven. The 2008/2009 review achieved inter-departmental co-operation and a budget driven by community needs. The majority of the community is still experiencing basic services backlogs and the Municipality will focus on eradicating these whilst maintaining and upgrading the City’s existing infrastructure.

During the 2009/2010 IDP Review we will continue to endorse the working together of political and administrative leadership with all development institutions from civil society. Although in the middle of our second term (2006-2011), our developmental obligation for this financial year (2009/2010) is to look at long-term development to guide all our actions. We are looking to retain our five developmental strategies but will be refining our programmes. Key projects will be identified and listed with their projects. This will be linked to the budget such that civil society can be able to align their planning with our strategic programmes and projects.

Proposed strategies to guide future development in the area include:
- Infrastructure & Services Provision
- Social and Economic Development
- Institutional Development
- Good Governance

The needs that can be used to help inform and drive our Municipal priorities and strategy responses were drawn from workshops with communities and key stakeholders. The following section represents the needs in the order of priority:
Needs in urban areas
• Maintenance of infrastructure
• Economic development and training
• Housing & slums clearance
• Road upgrades and maintenance
• Safety and security
• Public transport facilities
• Employment creation
• Social welfare
• Community facilities
• Accessing land for development

Needs in rural areas
• Community infrastructure
• Accessibility to services and facilities, as well as opportunities
• Economic development/ jobs
• Crime prevention
• Agriculture
• Community facilities
• Health and education
• Housing and slums clearance

uMhlathuze Municipality is striving to be an effective and efficient developmental local government. The IDP's main aim is to create a co-ordinated structure that will focus on creating an organisation that will focus on service delivery whilst the transformation process and organisational restructuring builds a strong institutional framework.

➤ Environmental Planning

The Environmental Planning Section has focused on integrating the Environmental Management Programme, with emphasis on the following:

• Review existing environmental information, maps and sector plans
• Liase with internal Municipal departments to coordinate environmental issues, projects, data and requirements;
• Package the information into a relevant Sector Plan as part of the Integrated Development Plan in accordance with relevant legislation and IDP Guidelines (Integrated Environmental Management Programme - IEMP). The Sector Plan will address Council's role as land owner and as authority;
• Ensure compliance with the NEMA (National Environmental Management Act) Principles;
• Include a relevant 5 year programme and budget for the implementation of the IEMP;
• Consult with authorities, internal staff and the Environmental Forum to obtain buy-in and comments;
• Finalise the IEMP

Environmental Services Management Plan (ESMP)

The Environmental Services Management Plan focuses on the planning and management of the “natural” assets in the uMhlathuze Municipal Area (i.e. natural resources located within the municipal boundary).

The areas that provide environmental services to the City are spatially defined, with various levels of protection having being defined.

The Municipality will conclude an agreement with the various role players to enforce the ESMP.
**Personnel Administration Services**

Personnel Administration Services is responsible for staff resources, control of all leave, general personnel administration as well as employment equity. In addition to this the Council has taken the decision to accept the responsibility of the job evaluation process for the uThungulu District following the withdrawal of the district municipality from the process.

**Employment Wellness**

The Employment Wellness Programme is work site based with the aim of early identification and resolving of employees problems that might adversely affect their work performance and productivity.

All cases are treated on a strictly confidential basis and no one has access to the individual’s information except by a written consent of the employee concerned.

**Training and Development**

The City of uMhlathuze seeks to develop the skills of our employees so as to promote the provision of excellent services in a sustainable manner. This is achieved through learning programmes, relevant training interventions and sustainable development initiatives that cascade skills to all disciplines on all levels.

The Workplace Skills Plan serves as the strategic document that gives direction on training and development within the Municipality.

The annual training budget of R2 949 494,11 was spent on the training of 761 employees in various occupational categories. Training courses, as per the approved Workplace Skills Plan, included among others: Groupwise, MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint; GIS, Access, Supervision, Business Management, Fire Fighting, Diving, Skippers Licensing Training, PALS, Occupational Health and Safety, Safety Representatives, Incident Investigation, Labour Relations and Switching Courses for Electricians.

Training was directed at all occupational levels, with more focus and expenditure on the lower levels and on previously disadvantaged employees as required by the National Skills Development Strategy and the spirit of skills development.

Training achievements include:

- Fifteen employees were trained as ABET facilitators and assisted with ABET classes, which were held in Alton, eSikhali and Empangeni. Of the 66 learners enrolled for level one, 29 passed the IEB exams in December 2007 as did 17 of the 19 learners who attended level 2 classes.
- Twelve employees attended Section 28 training for plumbing and five successfully completed their trade tests at INDLELA (Olifantsfontein).
- Eight employees who completed their trade tests in 2007 were assisted to obtain their driver’s licenses to be able to be appointed in higher positions.
- Nine employees who successfully completed their trade tests as electricians are currently busy doing their Wireman’s License at Umfolozi College.
In addition to the skills development of the employees, Training and Development is responsible for the allocation and administration of the bursary scheme for employees and dependants of employees. Twenty-one employees and 76 dependants of employees benefited from the scheme and were allocated bursaries for the 2007/2008 financial year. The value of the bursaries amounts to about one million Rand per annum.

► Health and Safety

Contractor Management
In accordance with The Occupational Health & Safety Act 85 of 1993 (OHS Act), a Contractor Agreement was drawn up and approved by Council for use in all tender documents. This agreement ensures that all contractors performing work on behalf of Council are aware of what is required of them in terms of legislation and that the work carried out is done in such a manner that ensures the health and safety of the environment.

In order to ensure compliance with the OHS Act, it is now compulsory that all contractors undergo induction, which is conducted by Council’s OHS Training Officer before commencement of work.

Incidents
Council implemented an electronic reporting and investigation system in 2006, which has proved to be an ongoing success and a useful tool in ensuring that all incidents are reported and investigated in line with legislative requirements. In 2007/2008, the main focus in terms of the system was one-on-one training with users as well as regular monitoring in the form of incident progress reports.

SHE Training
Employees attended the following courses: SHE Training programmes, OHS Induction training, Safety Representative training, Incident Investigations, HIRA, OHSAS 18001, SAMTRAC, R CAT and a SHEQ Auditors Course.

Functional training included First Aid, Confined Space Entry and Use of Portable Fire Extinguishers.

The practice of sending out weekly safety messages to all employees, as an innovative means to increase OHS awareness in the workplace, was introduced. In addition safety posters and copies of the OHS Act were distributed and displayed in work places.

Heat Exhaustion Prevention
The Discomfort Level Index is regularly monitored and the necessary precautions taken by staff when the level exceeds the accepted parameter.

SHE Workshop for Shop Stewards
A SHE Workshop was arranged for union shop stewards. The objective of the workshop was to inform the unions of the purpose and objectives of the OHS Act. Discussion also included the roles and responsibilities of the employer, employees, contractors, safety representatives and SHE Committees. The workshop highlighted the importance of participation and support of shop stewards in achieving and maintaining a healthy and safe work environment.

► Industrial Relations

The relationship between Council and its employees is very stable and healthy. The establishment of the Local Labour Forum, and the open door policy as forms of communication, have been instrumental in diffusing any potential conflicting labour issues.

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Despite the large staff component at the Municipality, relatively little disciplinary action had to be instituted in terms of the disciplinary procedure and other human resources related issues. This is indicative of sound industrial relations.

► Information and Communication Technology (ITC) Services

The following projects, identified as part of the Municipality's Information Technology Strategy, were completed:

**Infrastructure Upgrade Project**

To support the IT Strategy and the utilisation of open source products and tools for business services, an infrastructure upgrade was done, the main objectives of which were to:

- Upgrade all the Novell servers to the latest version and the conversion of several servers running NetWare and MS Windows to Linux
- Upgrade the GroupWise system to the latest version
- Deploy GWAVA, the Anti-Virus and Anti-Spam tool, to manage Council's GroupWise e-mail environment
- Consolidate and reduce the total number of servers
- Remote access GroupWise and other approved systems through the use of any Internet enabled device

The overall effect is an enhanced server and desktop management system and greatly improved performance for users accessing core applications such as GIS, GroupWise collaboration and document management systems.

The upgrade paves the way for the Business Services Architecture (BSA) phase II that will enable the public to begin interacting with council in ways not thought possible before.

**Street Light Complaints System**

The Street Light Complaints System allows any member of the public with access to the Internet to log onto the uMhlathuze website and provide information on lighting that is not working. The system will process the information and forward the complaint to the responsible party at the Municipality. The complainant will receive feedback and status reports and can also track the complaint's status. The system is based on open source technology and was developed in-house by GijimaAst as a module of the Gijima Maintenance System.

**Ongoing projects include:**

**Business Services Architecture (BSA) Phase II**

The BSA Phase II project commenced during the previous reporting period and is on track. The BSA makes provision for the establishment of Citizen and Staff Identity Repositories and will improve efficiency within the organisation by allowing the full integration of all systems.

**Services Application System (SAS)**

SAS is a software system that will process electricity and water applications. The system will improve the City's services delivery by providing a consolidated view of each customer via a single user identity and account structure. The project should be completed by January 2009.
Sport and Recreation Services

Sport Development and Advancement

uMhlathuze Municipality, as part of its commitment to the development and promotion of sport and recreation in all areas of the City, embarked on various events and programmes during 2007/2008, the highlights of which include:

uMhlathuze Mayoral Sports Day

More than a thousand local sportsmen and women converged at the Central Sports Complex for the inaugural uMhlathuze Mayoral Sports Day that was held on 15 September 2007.

The Department of Parks, Sport and Recreation aimed to achieve representation from all wards in the City and therefore preparation for the games started with ward elimination games early in 2007. Here participants were selected from the various wards to represent their respective clusters at the Mayoral Games in sporting codes such as soccer, netball, volleyball, basketball, athletics, boxing, rugby and cricket.

The event was a forerunner to the SALGA Games and players were selected on merit to represent the City at the uThungulu Games that was hosted during October 2007.

Football Clinics

Young football players who attended the football clinics held in eSikhali experienced a day they would never forget. Held at the sport complex formerly known as Umfolozi College Sport Complex, the youths were coached by former football stars such as Doctor Khumalo, Mark Fish and Phillemon Masinga.

Thuthukani School Fun Day

The opinion is held that participation in sport ensures social, emotional, motor and cognitive development of children with special needs. In recognising the need for recreational events aimed at children with special needs the Department hosted a fun day at Thuthukani School in Empangeni where the children participated in a number of indigenous games as well as gymnastics and aerobics.
Swim Challenge Series

uMhlathuze Swim Club development swimmers were given the opportunity to compete in the Hazelmere Dam Swim Challenge and rub shoulders with Olympic medal holder, Natalie du Toit.

Sports Facilities and Amenities

Considerable progress was made during the past year to extend the provision of services with the Department’s available resources.

2007/2008 saw the completion of Phase 1 of the Ngwelezane Regional Sports Facility as well as the upgrade of the eSikhaleni Sports Complex (previously known as the Umfolozi College Sports Complex).

Five soccer and netball training fields were developed in wards 6, 11, 25, 28 and 29 respectively during 2007/2008.

Council, in partnership with uThungulu District Council, has embarked on the development of a 2010 Stadium at the existing Central Sports Complex. This phased project will provide a FIFA/PSL soccer facility and a separate synthetic athletics track that will be developed as a regional facility capable of hosting provincial and hopefully future national events.

Swimming Pools

A new public swimming pool has been built in Ngwelezane. The facility opened its doors during September 2008 at the start of the swimming season.

Swimming Pools in Empangeni, Arboretum, Brackenham, Aquadene, eSikhaleni, eNseleni and Meerensee were once again extensively used during the past year as venues for school galas and the presentation of “Learn to Swim” and other aquatic programmes.

Urgent maintenance will be carried out at the various pools during the 2008/2009 financial year.
Beaches

A tender for the construction and development of Alkanstrand beach parking and recreational amenities was awarded during the 2007/2008 financial year. This contract will upgrade the existing parking areas at Alkanstrand as well as provide a skateboard park area to increase the utilisation of recreational facilities.

Horticultural and Cemetery Services

Cemeteries

Burials were conducted at the Empangeni Regional, Richards Bay and eNseleni Cemeteries during the past year and once again the Municipality was able to accommodate all requests for internments.

The tender for the development of eSikhaleni Cemetery was awarded during February 2008, but due to unforeseen circumstances the contract commencement date had to be revised. Notification of a land claim lodged against this project has since been received by the Municipality and is being investigated.

A tender for the extension and upgrading of roads at the Richards Bay Cemetery was awarded during April 2008 and the contractor is on site.

The need for the establishment of a crematorium was identified as early as 2002. However, the service was not sustainable at that time and proposals for the development of a crematorium were again requested during April 2008 in order to test the market. Regrettably no proposals were received.

Horticulture

Maputoland Woody Grassland (Portion 1 of IDZ Phase 1D)

In November 2005 the City of uMhlathuze and KZN Ezemvelo Wildlife reached agreement regarding the importance of the development and rehabilitation of Portion 1 on site 1D of the IDZ in an ongoing attempt to develop conservation areas around the industrial zone that in turn will assist towards the protection of remaining ecosystems.

The Department of Parks, Sport and Recreation requested a specialist vegetation study to determine the presence and extent of occurrence of Maputoland Woody Grassland at a site earmarked for development.

The plant relocation and rehabilitation process started during September 2007 and entailed the following:

- Removal and/or deforestation of exotic and invader plant material from the area to be rehabilitated
- Construction and continuous maintenance of access and transporting routes to and from the different transfer sites.
- Collection and relocation of plant material.
- Harvesting and transplanting of sensitive plant material.
- Ongoing maintenance of rehabilitated areas to prevent re-growth of invader plant material.

The rehabilitation project was successfully completed by the end of November 2007.

Alien/invader plant Eradication and Tree Planting

Invader and alien plants were cleared from 3 108 hectares during the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 in a continued effort to conserve the magnificent diversity of fauna and flora in our unique coastal environment.

A total of 1 254 Indigenous trees were planted during the periods July to December 2007 and April to July 2008. However, due to intense heat and lack of rain experienced between January and March 2008 no trees could be planted.

Local gardeners are urged to cultivate our indigenous flora which will in turn not only ensure beautiful and healthy plants suited to our conditions but also the satisfaction of knowing that they are helping in the conservation of a precious heritage.
The City of uMhlathuze is one of six local municipalities situated within the uThungulu District Council area in KwaZulu-Natal. The area comprises urban settlement, rural settlements, rural areas, farms and nature reserves. The majority of rural settlements are located within Tribal Authority areas. The area has a deep-water port, which is connected by national roads and railway line to the economic heartland of South Africa.

Empangeni and Richards Bay are the largest towns forming part of the municipal area and are surrounded by sugar cane fields, timber plantations, wetlands and fresh water lakes.

**Municipal Land area**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Km</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richards Bay</td>
<td>289,9966</td>
<td>36,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eNseleni</td>
<td>1,3325</td>
<td>0,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empangeni</td>
<td>28,9386</td>
<td>3,6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felixton</td>
<td>2,7835</td>
<td>0,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eSikhalieni</td>
<td>6,2304</td>
<td>0,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulindlela</td>
<td>0,8464</td>
<td>0,1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngwelezane</td>
<td>3,7001</td>
<td>0,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Tribal Authority areas, 21 rural settlements and 61 farms</td>
<td>462,1426</td>
<td>58,0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total municipal land area</strong></td>
<td><strong>795,9707</strong></td>
<td><strong>100,0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Population as at 2007/8**

The City of uMhlathuze had an estimated 70 031 households and a total population of about 345 776 in 2007.

More than 40% of the residents in the municipal area reside in the non-urban (rural and tribal authority) areas outside Empangeni and Richards Bay, which is indicative of a densely populated rural area. More people reside in Richards Bay than Empangeni, although Richards Bay is a younger town, indicating that this town grew at a faster rate than Empangeni.

**Level of education**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highest Level of Education attained by over 20 year olds</th>
<th>Persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Schooling</td>
<td>32,921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some Schooling</td>
<td>34,207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete primary</td>
<td>9,075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some Secondary</td>
<td>60,258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 12 / Standard 10</td>
<td>44,238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher / Tertiary education</td>
<td>16,681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>197,380</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Households**

- There are about 75 000 households within the municipal area.
- The number of households per geographic area are:
  - Richards Bay 12 433, Empangeni 6 046, eSikhalieni 6 363, eNseleni 1 439, Ngwelezane 2 775 and Vulindlela 588.
- The respective numbers of households in each of the other areas are unknown.
- There are 202 indigent households.
- 77% of the total dwellings are of formal type, with 15% being traditional type, and 8% informal type.
Household income

- The annual household income in the eNseleni rural area is the lowest as over 40% of all households have no income.
- Close to 20% of households in the Ngwelezane, eSikhaleni and eNseleni rural areas earn between R9 601 and R19 200 per annum.
- 27% of households in Mzingazi Village and 29% of those in Mandlazini earn no income. A large portion of the households in these areas earn between R4 801 and R38 400 per annum.
- On average, the income distribution between households in Mzingazi Village and Mandlazini is between the R4 801 and R38 400 per annum.
- The comparison of annual household income between typical urban areas reveals that whereas 47% of households in Meerensee and 23% of households in Empangeni earn more than R153 601 per annum, only 2% of households in eNseleni Urban earn this annual income.
- 23% of households in eNseleni Urban do not earn any income.
- Overall, annual household income is the highest in Meerensee, although some 8% of households in this area earn no annual income.
- Individual monthly income is, on average, higher in Richards Bay than in Empangeni, eNseleni or eSikhaleni.
- A large number of individuals in eNseleni and eSikhaleni earn less than R400 per month.
Labour Market Status

The unemployment level in the area is high at 36.28% in comparison to world standards. However, the unemployment levels relate to employment in the formal sector and do not reflect the true situation.

For instance, economic activity in tribal areas such as production for own use, arts and crafts, and informal sales are generally disregarded and creates the impression that tribal folk are without a source of income and the means to survive from day to day.

This is not the case as the quality of life experienced in tribal areas are preferred by many people provided that the amenities associated with urban areas such as water, electricity, schools and clinics, are available.

The local economy forms an integral part of the international and national economies. The presence of a number of huge exporting and importing industries, notably Billiton’s aluminium smelters, Richards Bay Minerals, Mondi Kraft, Foskor, Bell Equipment, Exxaro KZN Sands, Richards Bay Coal Terminal, agricultural activity (sugar cane and timber) and the port of Richards Bay, means that the welfare of the region is influenced by international and national market movements. 95% of economic activity is vested in Richards Bay, Empangeni and Felixton.

The area is third most important in the province of KwaZulu-Natal in terms of economic production, contributing 7.6% of the total Gross Geographic Product and 5.5% of total formal employment.

Year on year economic activity expanded by 14.09%.

Business

- The population is served by five business districts with 23 shopping centres and a combined total of almost 265 000m² commercial floor space.
- There are about 5 000 businesses in the municipal area.
- The area has 8 post offices, 30 bank branches, 35 government organisations and offices, 5 cinemas, 14 hotels and 129 registered bed and breakfast establishments/guesthouses.
- Industrial floor space totals 558 927m².

Energy sources

- 70.3% of all households use electricity as energy source for cooking and 86.0% use it as a lighting source. 18.9% of households uses gas or paraffin for cooking. Solar power is used by 0.3% of all households for cooking and lighting.
- An average of 31 903 498 kilowatt electricity is used per day within the municipal area.
- The Municipality has a customer base of 31 312 and 3 000 customers receive 50kWh free every month.
Key Information and Demographic Data

Water, sanitation and waste removal

- 92% of households has access to running water; and 68% of households have piped water to the dwelling or inside the yard.
- The length of water pipes in the Municipality adds up to 1 700km. The reservoir capacities add up to 260 mega-litres.
- The length of sewer pipes in the municipal area adds up to 623km.
- 68 129 of all households have access to free basic water services.
- 49,2% of all households have a flush or chemical toilet on the premises.
- There are 30 309 water meters for households, and 2 554 for businesses.
- There are 30 517 waste collection points for households and 1 000 for businesses.
- 58% of the population has access to waste removal services; approximately 2 500 tons of waste is collected on a weekly basis. 47,6% of waste collected is domestic waste and 12,3% is garden waste.

Telecommunication

- 42,5% of all households have a normal telephone or cellular telephone in the dwelling.
- Only 4,4% of all households do not have access to a telephone near the dwelling.

Transport

- It is estimated that some 250 000 persons commute daily within the municipal area; close to 40 000 of these commuters are from outside the municipal boundary.
- The number of minibus taxis is estimated at 3 900 and the number of buses at 130. During 2007, 33 582 light passenger vehicles, 2 687 motorcycles and 1 953 minibuses were registered within the municipal area.
- There are 733 bus routes and 142 800 bus commuters.
- On average 400 freight trucks enter and exit the municipal area on a weekly basis.
- Spoornet provides a freight service of almost 750 trains per week, linking the City to Durban and Gauteng; there are 320 km of railway track.
- There are 128 km of tarred national roads and 850 km of tarred secondary roads in the municipal area. The Municipality maintains 554km of tarred roads and streets.
- The Port of Richards Bay consists of 2 157 hectares of land and 1 495 hectares of water area.
- Distance to closest international ports: Maputo 465km and Durban 160 km.
Community Facilities

- Municipal sport and recreation facilities include: two athletic fields, 15 basketball courts, one baseball field, five cricket fields (two floodlit), four hockey fields (2 floodlit), 10 volleyball courts, 74 soccer fields (9 floodlit), four rugby fields, four korfball courts, seven tennis courts, 10 netball courts (8 floodlit), two polo fields, five squash courts, 16 jukskei, two golf courses, two bowling greens, 15 comby courts, nine swimming pools.
- There are 809 sport clubs with specific facilities for inter alia equestrian sport, polocrosse, aerolites, angling, yachting, paddling and radio flyers.
- Within the municipal area there are four hospitals and 23 health clinics, four cemeteries, seven public libraries, 15 community halls, 102 schools and three tertiary education institutions, including a university.
- There are 1.7 police officers per 1 000 persons of the population, five police stations and four law courts.

Climate

- An idyllic subtropical, maritime climate prevails throughout the year at the coast, seldom lower than 12° or 14°C in winter and reaching 32° to 35°C during summer months. Summers are hot and humid, and experience majority of annual rainfall, while winters are warm and dry with occasional frost in the interior.
- Average daily temperature is 28°C in summer and 22°C in winter.
- Prevailing winds are north-easterly and south-westerly.
- The long term average annual rainfall for the Richards Bay area is about 1 200mm decreasing to about 1 000mm inland towards Empangeni with most of the rainfall occurring between January and May.
- The area experienced two periods of prolonged drought (1981-1983 and 1992-1994) during the past 30 years, and has been subjected to destruction by extreme floods generated by the cyclones Demoina and Mboa in 1984 followed by flood disasters in 1987 and 2000.

Man-made features of the area include dams and canals (189.1 ha) and the Richards Bay Harbour (2 353 ha). 25.76% of all urban land in Richards Bay is zoned either Public Open Space or Conservation Amenity. There are two nature reserves within the municipal area.