Service delivery & economic expansion in Mbombela (Nelspruit)

Whynie Adams &
Badiri Moila
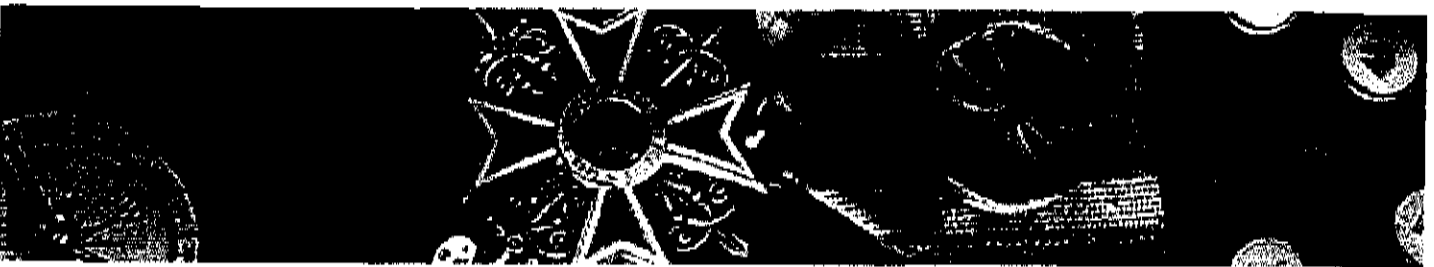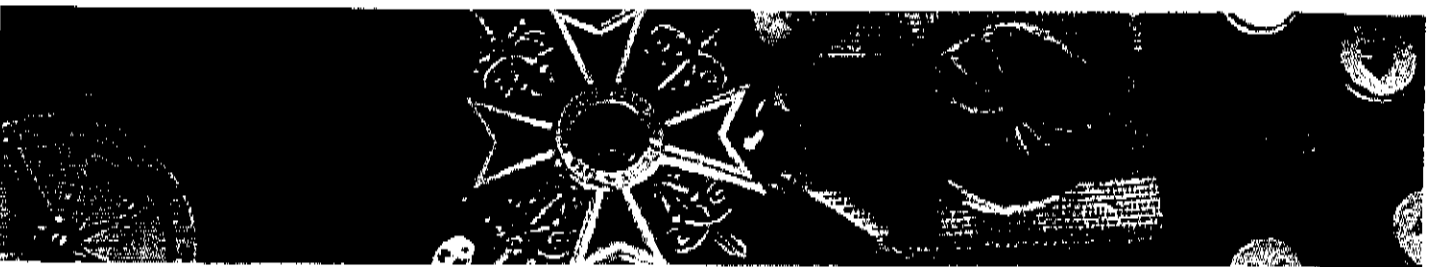
Aim

● **Ascertain the extent to which:**

◆ Various initiatives brought about economic equity in Mbombela.

◆ Service delivery, esp. in areas where huge backlogs exist, were sped up &

◆ Issues impacting on service delivery.

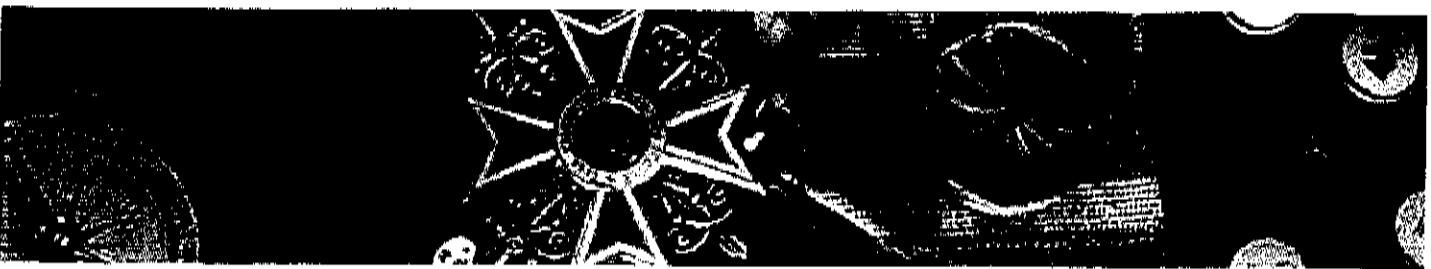◆ The role of the Mbombela Local Municipality in bringing initiatives to fruition.

Background

- Mainly white core that is

- developed, well serviced,

- employment,econ opportunities, literacy &

- Black dominated peri-urban areas where

- service delivery and econ opportunities non-existed/limited, unemployment & illiteracy.

Methodology

- Face-face interviews with various government officials

- Follow up interviews either telephonically or via email

- Initial difficulty in secure interviews

- Face-face interviews with NGOs and local community leader
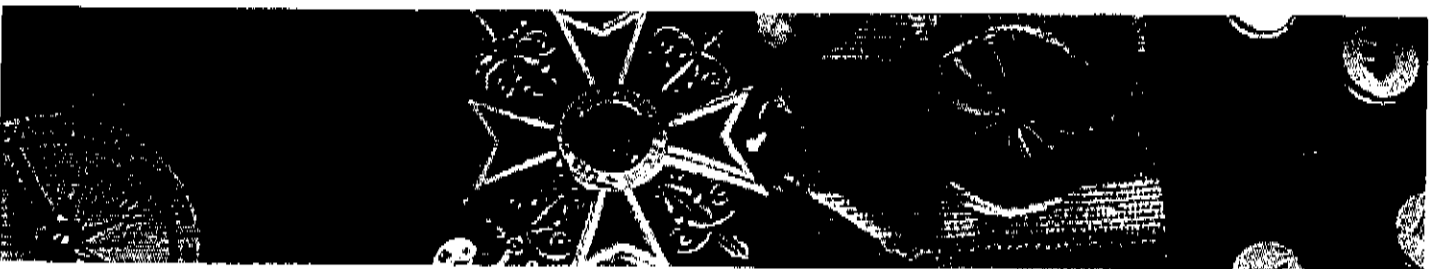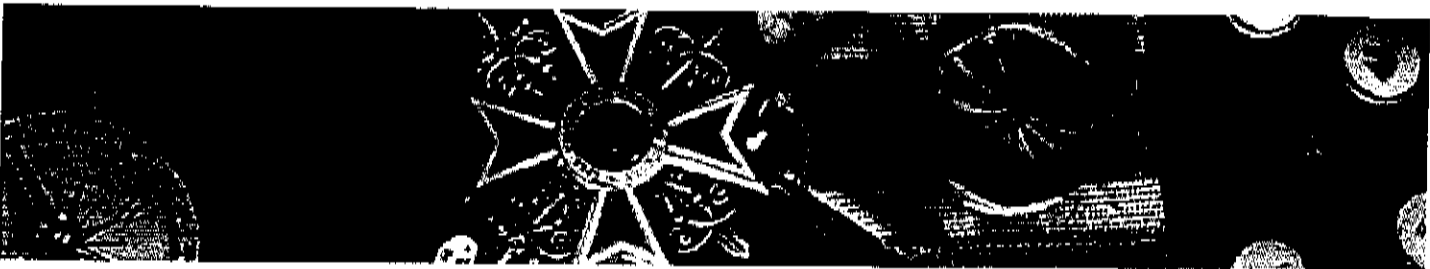
- 12 citizens interviews – 6 rural & urban each

Outputs

- **Key programmes:**
  - Maputo Development Corridor SDI
  - kaNyamazane URP
  - LED initiatives
  - LRAD
  - Service delivery
    - e.g. Water, electricity & housing

Objective

- **Ultimate objective:**
- Ensure economic expansion
- Increase development & economic opportunities in townships & rural areas
- LED initiatives
- Increase Black business
- Bring Black business into mainstream economy

Objectives

- Maputo Development Corridor SDI

  - to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
  - to unearth and unlock local economic potential of the landlocked parts of the country and generate sustainable economic growth
  - to promote regional economic cooperation
  - to create sustainable jobs
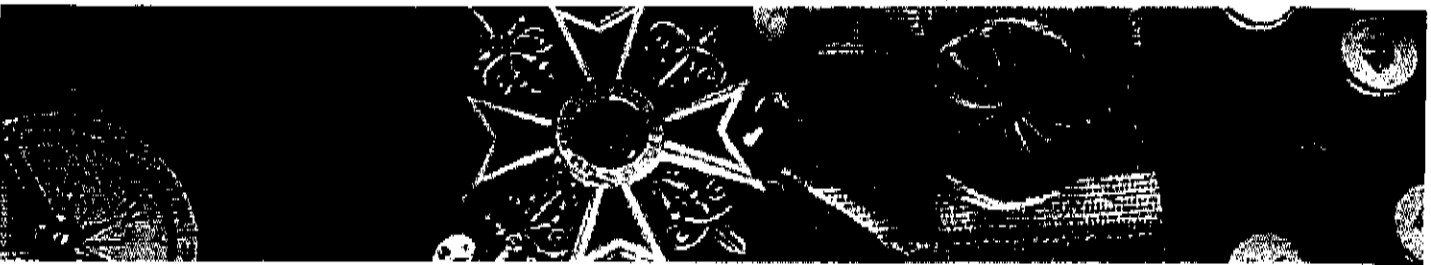 - to exploit spin-off opportunities that ooze out of the crowding in of FDI

Outputs

- **Maputo Development Corridor SDI**

  - The building of the R350 m KMIA
  - Construction of the N4
  - Redevelopment of the Maputo port
  - Increase of export through port & airport
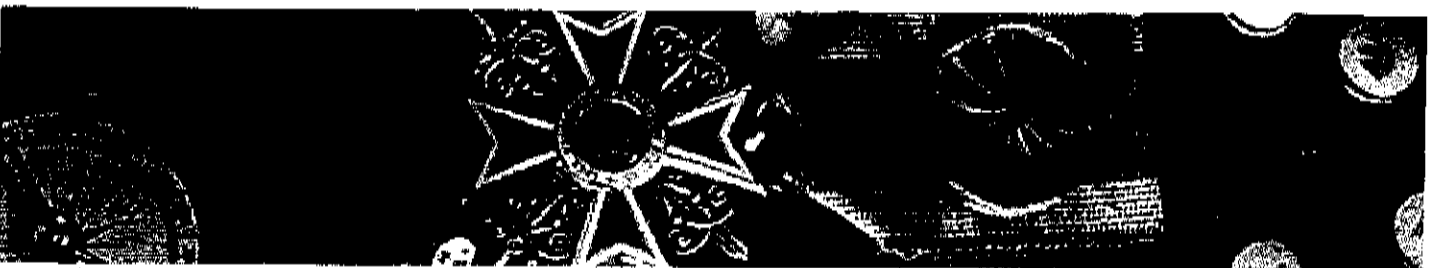 - Tourism promotion initiatives

Impacts

- Local residents gained employment at various construction jobs

- Increase in the no of Black entrepreneurs in the tourism industry

- Mbuyane community as part owners of KMIA benefited considerably

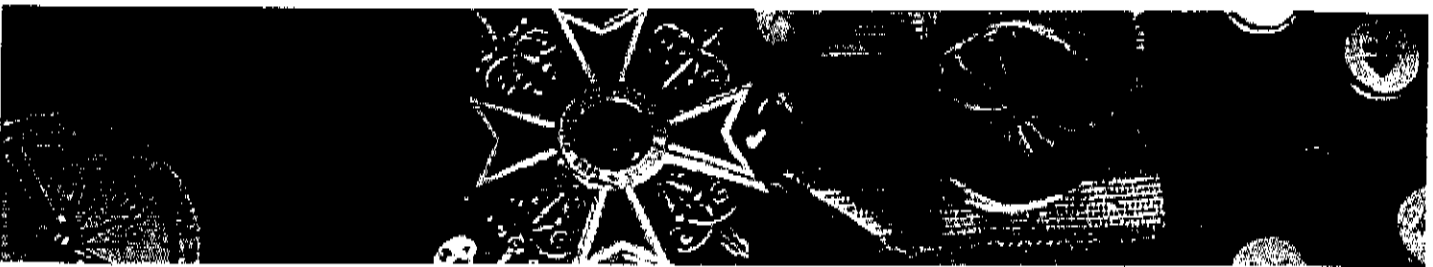- *However:* established white business took the lion share of the economic benefits

Outputs

- **Successful LED initiatives include:**

  - The Shabalala Multipurpose Centre
  - The Daantjie Community Bakery Project

Impacts

- Emergence of sustainable community based businesses

- Job creation

- Short & long term employment

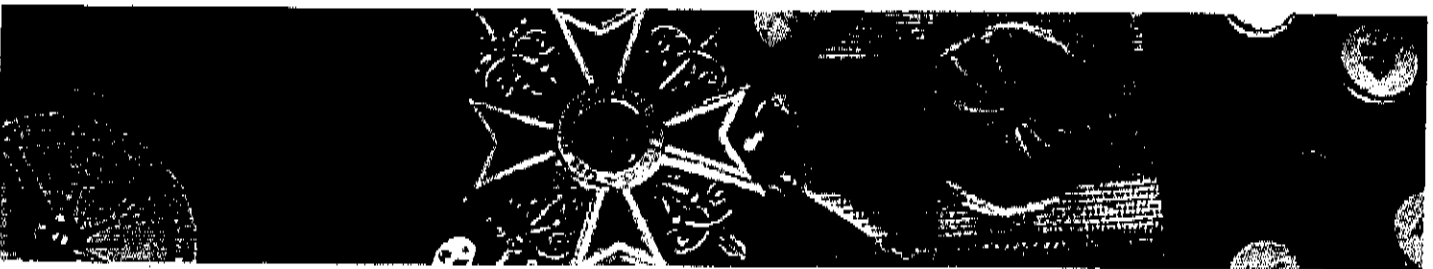- *However:* various problems were encountered and quotas were not reached,

LRAD

- Agriculture is an important part of Mbombela economy

- **Objectives**

- Increase economic contribution of agricultural sector by 20% over the next 5 years

- Promote Black farmers into mainstream agricultural economy
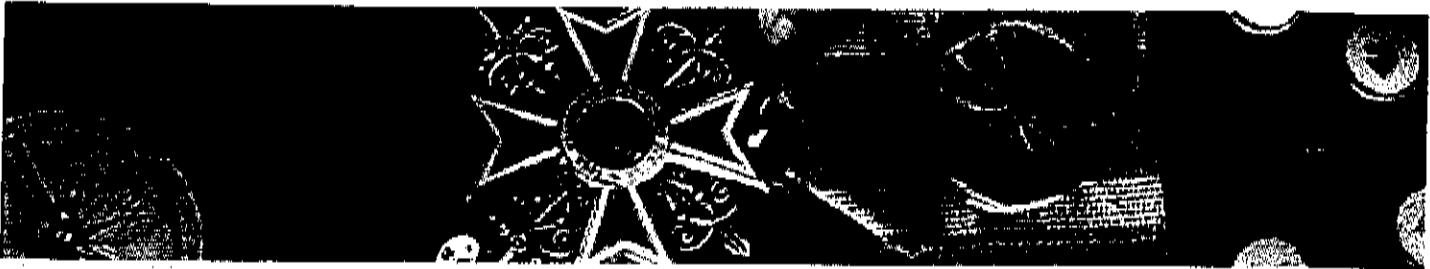
- **Output**

- 240 farmers, each with 7 hectares of land.

Housing

- **Social Housing**
- Tekwane South – 1000 houses
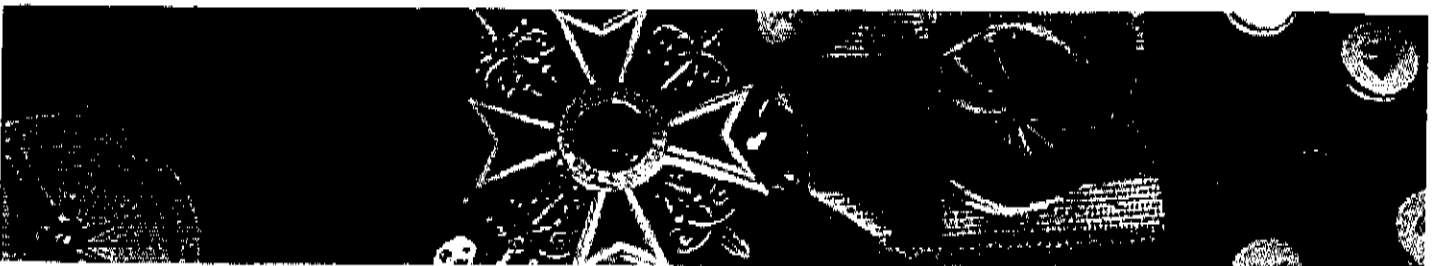- Peoples' Housing Process (PHP) – 8 projects in rural and urban areas, e.g. the Vukuzimele trust

Water

- Greatest challenge is to address past backlogs in water services

- **Outputs:** free basic water supply

- **Impact:** water service delivery fast tracked e.g. metered connection in the yard or communal standpipe.

- *However:* culture of non payment ensue and illegal connections abound.

Electricity

- Local municipality committed to maintaining existing electricity networks

- Agreement with Eskom to supply electricity to townships.

- **Output:** Kisko corporation supplied electricity

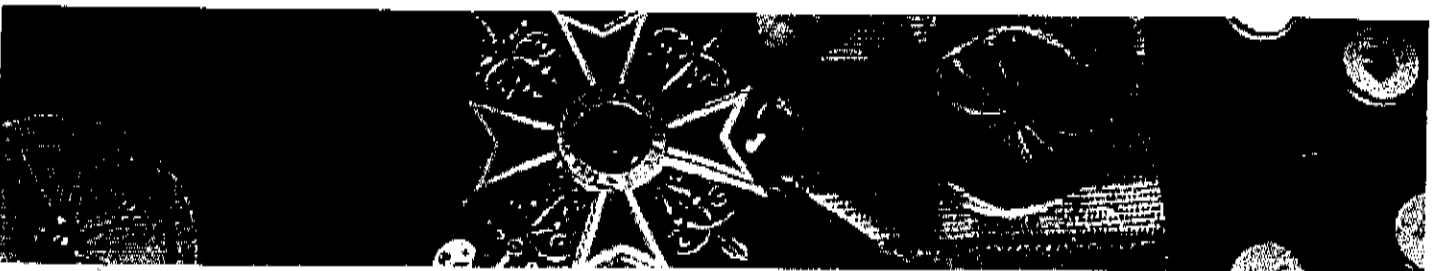- *However:* low or non payment for electricity, hence illegal connections abound.

Factors hampering service delivery

- Culture of non-payment & tenure insecurities hampered effective service delivery

- Income generated from services used to maintain existing services
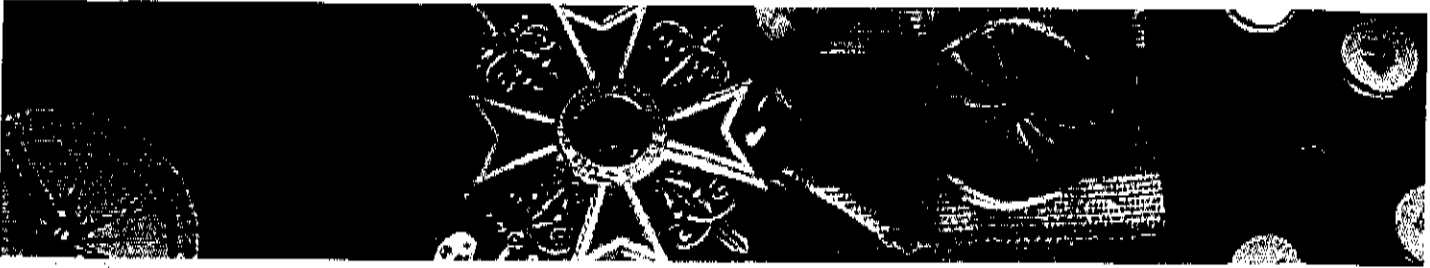
- Tenure insecurities need to be addressed & resolved

Tenure issues

- Tenure issues should be resolved in order to adequately address the service backlog and upgrade infrastructure or provide new infrastructure.
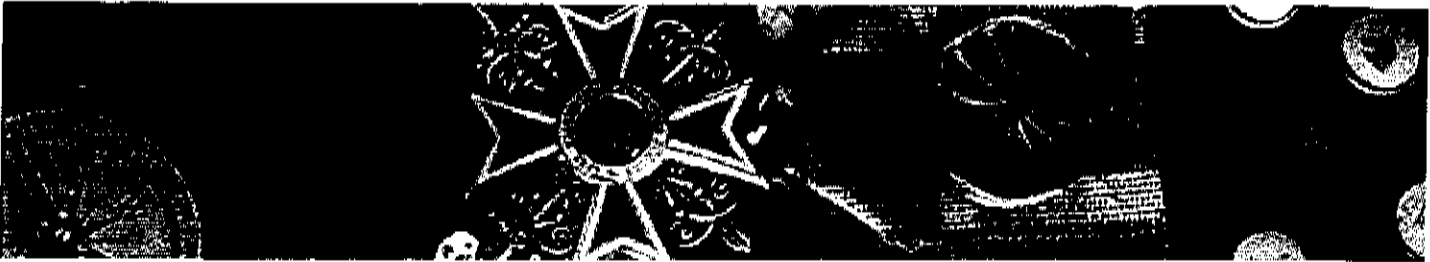
Formalisation of townships & tenure insecurities

- Building bylaws were not enforced
- Wide spread encroachment abound
- Informal housing occurs
- Permanent structures build on land deemed unsuitable for habitation
- Tenure insecurities abound in many towns

Formalising of townships & tenure security

- Township registers in 20 townships

- Formalisation of 11813 stands

- Pilot programme – combat illegal squatting

- **The tenure process**

- **Objective:** ensure that all residents have formalised land tenure by 2020.

- **Output:** 2192 deeds of grants and they now have full ownership of the land they reside on.

Conclusion

- Mbombela economy was boosted

- Black empowerment and SMME opportunities were created.

- Some mainstreaming of Black business

- Job creation

- Service provision occurred

- Townships have been formalised and tenure process is continuing.