

# REPORT TO THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON TOURISM



**uMngeni Municipality**

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**Author: Cllr. R Sokhela**

**Designation: Mayor**

**Subject: Submission of Howick Falls Precinct Report**

**Date: 27 August 2020**

## **1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide updates to the Committee about the Howick Falls Precinct in uMngeni Municipality in Kwazulu-Natal, for **Noting by the Committee**

## **2. RESOLUTIONS FROM THE TOURISM COMMITTEE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

The following resolutions were crafted based on the presentation and observation made by the Committee of Tourism in the National Assembly following a stakeholder engagement held at the Agricultural Hall on 26 September 2019. The uMngeni Municipality is providing updates on the resolutions that requires implementation from the Municipality.

The following resolutions were crafted based on the presentations and observations made by the Howick Tourism Stakeholder engagement:

No.	Resolutions	Responsible Stakeholder(s)	Responsible person from uMngeni Municipality	Timeframe	Update from uMngeni Municipality
1.	Develop the Howick Falls Precinct Development Plan, and provide the feedback report on the execution of the Plan, and report to Parliament on quarterly basis.	Coordinated by uMngeni Local Municipality	Acting GM: Economic Development and Planning & Senior Officer: Tourism	31 March 2020	An amount of R5000 000.00 budget has been set aside by KZN Dept. of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs for the development of Howick Falls Precincts through Umgungundlovu District Municipality.
2.	Provide monthly progress reports to all affected tourism stakeholders, including parliament.	Coordinated by uMngeni Local Municipality	Acting GM: Economic Development and Planning & Senior Officer: Tourism	31 March 2020	This is ongoing. The submission of other monthly report to the Committee and other affected stakeholders was disturbed by COVID 19 pandemic.
3.	Development of the Transformation Oversight Intensification Action Plan.	District and Municipality	None	31 March 2020	Not Applicable to uMngeni Municipality however the office of the Mayor continues to monitor the progress with the Mayor of Umgungundlovu District Municipality.
4.	Feedback on the plan to declare Howick Falls as National Heritage Site.	Coordinated by the Department of Tourism	None	31 March 2020	Not Applicable to uMngeni Municipality however the office of the Mayor is kept on updates so that the office of the Mayor can play its required role
5.	Identification of all pieces of legislation that prohibit / hinder growth of tourism businesses in South Africa	Coordinated by Portfolio Committee on Tourism (National Assembly).	None	31 March 2020	Not Applicable to uMngeni Municipality


6.	Avail RDP houses for the resettlement of the informal community currently residing in the Howick Falls precinct.	Coordinated by uMngeni Local Municipality	Manager: Social Services	31 March 2020	Khayelehle Housing Project. The projects comprises of 1500 unites and the beneficiaries are largely from Shiyabazali Informal Settlement adjacent to the Howick Falls. The project has received planning consent for the development of 500 units. The remaining units can be only be developed once the Mpophomeni Treatment Works has been completed. Dept. of Human Settlement has provided funding for stage 1 &2 and the internal services have completed. The sewer pump station has been completed and handed over to Umgungundlovu District Municipality. An agreement has been reached with UMDM for bulk water provision as well as with KZN Dept. Transport for servitude.
7.	Provide seed capital for development of tourism in Villages, Townships and Small Towns (dorpiess) (VTSD).	Facilitated by the three spheres of government led by the National Department of Tourism	None	31 March 2020	Not Applicable to uMngeni Municipality however the matter is important for development of township and rural tourism. The Municipality and the District must be privy to the update for deliberations in the District Mayors Forum
8.	Set aside a budget of R5 million for the Gorge Walk Restaurant and make qualification criteria easy for local participation.	Coordinated by the uMngeni Local Municipality	Acting GM: Economic Development and Planning & Senior Officer: Tourism	31 March 2020	The Tourism Information Office at the Falls has now been fenced by uMngeni Municipality to avoid criminality at the Office, however the upgrade of the Gorge Walk and the Restaurant has now been planned be included in the Precinct Plan and budget made available by KZN Dept. of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs.

9.	Mobilisation of volunteers to clean the Howick Falls precinct.	Coordinated by uMngeni Local Municipality	Manager: Park and Gardens	31 March 2020	A team under Manager: Park and Gardens and a team from Working on Fire, Love Howick organisation and Municipality's EPWP are containing to ensure that the Howick Falls is clean
10.	Interact with the Department of Basic Education to develop a schedule for schools tours to Howick Falls to boost domestic tourism and improve statistics.	Coordinated by District / Municipality and KZN Provincial Department of Education	Howick Museum Education Officer	31 March 2020	Howick Museum offers a wide range of curriculum enrichment educational lectures for pupils from grade 4 upwards. The Education Officer designs lectures and talks around museum exhibition, specimens and heritage sites and tourists attractions including Howick Falls
11.	Establish Howick Non-racialism Action Plan for tourism growth and development for the benefit of all stakeholders.	Coordinated by uMngeni Local Municipality and stakeholders	Acting Economic Development and Planning & Senior Officer: Tourism	31 March 2020	The Municipal Economic Development Department is reconvening the uMngeni LED Forum which will include stakeholders such as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Municipal Tourism Nodes( HUCTO, ZMTE, Nottingham Rd Tourism)</li> <li>2. Business Owners</li> <li>3. Howick SAPS</li> <li>4. Howick Museum</li> </ol> This committee will deal with the Non racialism Action Plan for the benefit tourism growth.
12.	Establish an Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) forum to meet quarterly to discuss tourism issues and development.	Coordinated by Provincial Department of Economic Development and Tourism	None	31 March 2020	Not Applicable to uMngeni Municipality however the Municipality is keen on the role expected to play. We are therefore requesting that the report be provided for discussion and noting in the Umgungundlovu Mayor 's Forum
13.	Erect an interim steel barrier on the edge of the Howick Falls to protect the life and limb of vulnerable communities from falling in the Falls (while resettlement programme is still	Local Municipality and the affected residents.	Acting Economic Development and Planning & Senior Officer: GM:	31 March 2020	The Municipality is currently faced with financial constraints and has not allocated funding in its current budget for the steel structure. However the matter will be proposed for inclusion in

	under way).		Tourism			the adjustment budget.
14.	Engage the Provincial Police Commissioner to provide visible policing in the Howick Falls precinct whilst planning a comprehensive tourist safety strategy (Roll-out of tourism safety initiatives).	Coordinated by South African Police Service (SAPS)	None	31 March 2020		The Municipality is taking a lead in ensuring that the Howick Falls is safer place for community and Tourists. The Municipal Traffic Unit and Howick (SAPS) regularly conduct visible policing at the Howick Falls.
15.	Provide names of the Villages, Townships and Small Towns (Dorpiés) available in KwaZulu-Natal Province.	Coordinated by the Portfolio Committee on Tourism, KwaZulu-Natal Legislature	None	31 March 2020		Not Applicable to Umngeni Municipality however the Municipality would like the updates on the matter so as ensure that we play our part in elevating our rural communities and townships in the tourism sector
16.	Hospitality industry to prioritise South Africans in the tourism job opportunities.	To be facilitated by the local tourism businesses led by the Howick Umngeni Community Tourism Organisation (HUCTO)	None	31 March 2020		The LED Forum in matter will ensure that the Municipality with relevant stakeholders take the task into function of the forum
17.	Deploy the EPWP recruits as Tourist Safety Monitors.	To be facilitated by Umngeni Local Municipality in consultation with the Department of Tourism	Acting GM: Economic Development and Planning & Senior Officer: Tourism	31 March 2020		Four (4) Tourism Safety Monitors Programme Learners have been recommended for a placement at the Howick Falls Information Office through the EPWP. Funds have been made available on 2020/2021 budget on this matter.
18.	Improve the Mpophomeni Tourism Centre by completing the construction of the amphitheatre, providing office equipment, and paving.	To be facilitated by Umngeni Local Municipality and the provincial Department of	ZMTE and Acting GM: Economic Development and Planning & Senior Officer:	31 March 2020		Application for funding to KZN EDTEA through Operation Vula was made by ZMTE together with the Municipality. We are still waiting for the outcomes of the application.

		Economic Development, Tourism and Environment	Tourism			
19.	Provide proper signage for the Mpophomeni Tourism Centre.	To be facilitated by Umngeni Local Municipality and the provincial Department of Economic Development,	ZMTE and Acting GM: Economic Development and Planning & Senior Officer: Tourism	31 March 2020	Application for funding to KZN EDTEA through Operation Vula was also made by ZMTE together with the Municipality for this particular project. We are still waiting for the outcomes of the application.	
20.	Engage the Department of Public Works to avail the adjacent land to the Howick Tourism Centre for the establishment of the Airpark with a weekly farmers' market and related activities.	To be facilitated by Umngeni Local Municipality and the provincial Department of Economic Development,		31 March 2020	The land belongs to Ingonyama Trust Board and there is a patch of wetland on the piece of land. However the Municipality plans to commence bilateral engagement with ITB to ascertain the possibility of establishing an Agri Park. The Municipality has a draft plan regarding an Agri Park and the land is a contentious issue that requires to be resolved before an Agri Park is established.	
21.	Develop a long term Mpophomeni Tourism Business Plan.	To be facilitated by Umngeni Local Municipality and the provincial Department of Economic Development,	Acting GM: Economic Development and Planning & Senior Officer: Tourism and IDP Manager	31 March 2020	The Municipality is currently facing financial constraints and the matter was not included in the current budget. However the matter will be proposed for inclusion in the 2021/2022 Financial year budget	

3. **COMMUNICATION** – With the Parliamentary Committee on Tourism
4. **COMMUNITY** – Creation of enabling for environment for tourism within uMngeni LM
5. **SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS** – The enhancement of tourism as a service delivery option to assist the tourism industry and creating sustainable employment in the sector.
6. **RECOMMENDATION**  
**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT:**
  - 6.1 The *Parliament Committee on Tourism* notes the report.
  8. **SUBMITTED BY:**

  
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