



UMZIMVUBU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES STRATEGY

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1. BACKGROUND

The South African democratic government adopted a social agenda that is aimed at improving the quality of life of all the people of this country. At the centre of this agenda is the upliftment of the standards of living and conditions of the previously disadvantaged groups. At the core of these previously advantaged groups are those individuals or groups of the society that are defined as being vulnerable.

The South African legal and policy framework define the vulnerable groups as being mainly constituted by children, women, older persons, people with disabilities and young people or youth.

As part of the democratic government's commitment of improving the quality of life of all the citizens, vulnerable groups are one of the critical citizens of the society that require special focus. The Umzimvubu Local Municipality is also mandated to mainstream and advocate for the needs and interests of the special groups (youth, disability, children, elderly, gender) with the special consideration of their programmes. The Mayor's office coordinates and has an obligation of addressing challenges relating to socio-economic, political and cultural marginalization of women, children, elderly and people living with disability. The municipality through its social cohesion programmes ensures that young people live healthy life-style free from substance abuse and criminal activities by implementing social programmes.

The Communications and Special Programmes department is located in the office of the Mayor within Umzimvubu Municipality. The Umzimvubu municipality facilitated the processes of establishing, co-ordinating structures or forums for the different special groups whose mandate, amongst other things, is to lobby and advocate for implementation of special groups development by all sectors, monitor and make follow-up on the implementation of plans and programmes for the special groups. The municipality launched special group's forums and is mandated to mainstream the special group's needs and consider all their programmes.

The Municipality's Mission

To properly plan and deliver quality and sustainable services to improve socio economic status within the broader Umzimvubu community.

The Municipality's Vision:

Moving towards limitless possibilities.

The Municipality's Values

- P - Passion
- A - Accountability
- C - Competitiveness
- D - Diversity

2. PURPOSE

- 2.1 To inform the planning processes and service delivery programmes of the municipality with the intention of ensuring that the issues affecting the designated or vulnerable groups are mainstreamed in the broader municipal activities.
- 2.2 In adopting the mainstreaming approach, the municipality and other stakeholders will ensure that the issues of the designated groups are not treated as add-ons but they are included in the policy development processes, broad planning phases, and implementation and evaluation stages of service delivery.
- 2.3 To establish clear guidance of advocating for special groups programmes.
- 2.4 To ensure that the plan will promote an enabling environment for effective implementation of special groups programmes and initiatives.
- 2.5 To ensure that the framework will also inform programmes and other initiatives by government institutions, civil society as well as the private sector in their endeavours to deliver quality services to the people of Umzimvubu Local Municipality particularly special groups.
- 2.6 To promote integration of special groups in developmental programmes and service delivery.

3. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The Umzimvubu Special Programmes Strategy/Framework is informed and guided by several policy documents including but not limited to the following:-

- Constitution of the Republic of SA – Chapter 2 on Bill of Rights, sec 9 (3) unfairly discrimination direct or indirectly against anyone on grounds of race, gender, sex etc and section 28 on Children’s Rights.
- Municipal Systems Act section 17 (3) when establishing mechanisms, processes and procedures to enable the local community participation, municipality must take into account the special needs of people with disabilities, women & other disadvantaged groups.
- Employment Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act No. 4 of 2000, prevents and prohibits unfair discrimination and harassment of women and promotes equality.
- Disability Framework for Local Government, its primary objective is to support and facilitate the mainstreaming of disability issues into all policies, plans, programmes and activities of local government, thus significantly helping to enhance the quality of life and foster the full participation and empowerment of men, women, youth, elderly and children with disabilities in all spheres of life.

- ❑ Children's Act (Act 38 of 2005), gives effect to certain rights of children as contained in the Constitution and set out principles relating to the care and protection of children;
- ❑ The Children and Families Act 2014 takes forward the coalition of government's commitment to improve services for vulnerable children and support strong families. It reinforces wider reforms to ensure that all children and young people can succeed, no matter what is their background.
- ❑ Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Bill, includes the promotion of gender equality, the prohibition of unfair discrimination against women and the elimination of gender based violence. It further states that measures to address discrimination against women are essential to the transformation of gender relations in the Republic.
- ❑ Older Person's Act 13 of 2006, its aim is to empower and protect older persons and maintenance of their rights, safety, security and well-being.
- ❑ National Youth Development Policy Framework, it does establish principles for youth development and identify strategic intervention areas.
- ❑ National Youth Policy 2015-2020, it improves upon and updates the previous policy by speaking to the new challenges that South Africa's youth face, while acknowledging that there is more to be done to address the challenges identified in the previous NYP.

4. OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 To promote integration of special groups in developmental programmes and service delivery.
- 4.2 To provide strategic interventions for the implementation of SPU programmes.
- 4.3 To adopt the mainstreaming approach such that the municipality and other stakeholders will ensure that the issues of the designated groups are not treated as add-ons, but they are included in the policy development processes, broader planning phases, implementation and evaluation stages of service delivery.
- 4.4 To consolidate and integrate youth, women, disable people development into the mainstream of government policies, programmes and budget.
- 4.5 To ensure that each municipal department includes SPU programmes in its plans as part of continuous performance management.
- 4.6 To ensure improved co-ordination of programmes targeting and responding to the challenges faced by designated groups.
- 4.7 To promote social economic development for the special groups.
- 4.8 Promote and support a cohesive and effective network of structures, organisations & groups focusing on special groups.
- 4.9 To ensure that special groups are provided with necessary skills and education that will adequately prepare them to contribute in the development of our society.

5. SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Umzimvubu local municipality is one those municipalities in the Province of the Eastern Cape that are characterised by poverty conditions, high unemployment rate and socio-economic challenges associated with these conditions.

According to the Census 2011 report, Umzimvubu local municipality has a population of about 191 620 people which has the following features that relate to the vulnerable groups:

- Women constitute about 101 559 of the total population.
- Children constitute about 38.3% of the population.
- Older persons in the Umzimvubu local municipality constitute about 6.7%.
- The youth rate of unemployment is at 54.5%.

These groups of people, especially women, youth and children constitute a bigger chunk of the municipal population and this necessitates response to the issues and challenges faced by these groups.

All the above identified factors necessitates the development of coherent and focused strategies that address the needs and challenges faced by the different vulnerable groups and the objective of such strategies to ensure the realisation of government's broader strategic objectives of improving the lives of the people of South Africa with biasness towards the previously disadvantaged people.

6. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SPU/MAYOR'S OFFICE

- 6.1 Coordination of empowerment sessions, programmes, projects & funding opportunities targeting special groups.
- 6.2 Ensure provision of budget in the municipal budget for special groups to cater for their needs, avail resources for the forums (transport to attend meetings/workshops/accommodation etc).
- 6.3 Ensure inclusion of Special groups programmes in the IDP.
- 6.4 Ensure that municipal budget is responsive to the needs of special groups.
- 6.5 Ensure effective and adequate mainstreaming of the designated/vulnerable groups programmes as well as ensuring that they are provided with necessary support.
- 6.6 Politically champion the designated/vulnerable group's programmes.
- 6.7 Providing oversight and implementation of programmes.
- 6.8 Ensure that women, people with disabilities, young people and older persons have access to all municipal information and services
- 6.9 Facilitate the establishment of designated/vulnerable groups committees or structures and fora and ensure their functioning.
- 6.10 Prepare and submit reports to oversight committees, fora and to management structures.
- 6.11 Convene quarterly meetings to ensure implementation of their programmes of

action.

6.12 Strive for optimal involvement and inclusion of special groups in all programmes and projects.

6.13 Intense lobbying for their development programmes with relevant departments within the Municipality such as Local Economic Development and Infrastructure and outside the municipality.

7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF DESIGNATED GROUP'S FORA

7.1 Identify the needs and priorities of vulnerable groups in the broader society.

7.2 Participate in planning, implementation and evaluation of programmes and projects of special groups.

7.3 Contribute to the public awareness and advocacy for change.

7.4 Develop and deepen the exchange of views and relay service delivery information between government institutions, municipality and represented groups.

7.5 Ensure effective representation in all co-ordinating structures of the municipality, governance so as to influence decision making.

7.6 Participate during SPU planning programmes so as to advocate for their interests and mainstreaming of their programs.

7.7 Involvement of forums for the provision/advocacy of LED support to special groups (create SMME projects for special groups)

7.8 Attend quarterly meetings to ensure implementation of their programmes of action.

7.9 Articulate specific interventions to meet the needs of special groups

8. SPECIAL GROUPS CHALLENGES

ELDERLY	CHILDREN	WOMEN
High levels of elderly people abuse and ill treatment by family and general public.	Children are often vulnerable to abuse and neglect with little or no means to defend themselves	Coordination of empowerment sessions & funding opportunities for the special groups.
Inadequate support systems and protection for elderly persons against physical and mental abuse.	Inadequate programmes that cater for care, support and protect children in their growth and development within the society.	High incidences of violence directed to women, elderly and young girls.
Absence and/or inaccessible recreational facilities for older persons to ensure active aging.	Inadequate engagement and listening to the issues affecting children.	High levels of illiteracy and inadequate developmental programmes targeting women in general.

PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES	YOUTH	MEN
High levels of stigmatisation and discrimination of people with disabilities	Inadequate coordination of empowerment sessions & funding opportunities for the youth.	Continued cultural practices that expose women and young girls to abuse and exploitation
Poor access to transportation and other facilities.	High level of youth unemployed within the municipality.	Lack of structures/forum representing men's interests and assistance towards fighting GBV and dealing with issues affecting men.
Inadequate co-ordination of programmes and activities targeting people with disabilities.	Lack on access to information on opportunities (funding & educational) available.	
Limited access to quality education for the different groups of people with disabilities	Youth involved in criminal activities.	

9. STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES

- Disability Forum - responsible for promoting, advocating, lobbying for the disabled people, representing their interests, needs and promoting their rights.
- Elderly Forum - represent interests and needs of elderly people within the municipality.
- Women's Caucus - to promote leadership, ensure women empowerment, represent their interests, provide support, influence programmes and agenda of the municipality.
- Youth Council - champion and advocate issues and interests of young people of Umzimvubu.
- Men's forum – to champion and represent men's needs/interests.

10.A PHASED SPECIAL GROUPS PROGRAMME

Taking into account and considering the challenges presented, and the challenges of budget and capacity, it must be concluded that this plan will be a process that is phased over a period of five (5) years.

The following are the strategic activities and action plan that underpin the Umzimvubu Local municipality's strategy in response to the needs, interests and addressing challenges of the designated groups.

Strategic Activities and Action Plan

PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES		
Action	Responsible Person	Timeframe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Full and effective participation by and inclusion of the designated groups within departmental planning sessions. 	Senior Manager: SPU & Communication	December-January yearly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consolidation of programme of action (plan) of their projects and programmes 	Manager: SPU Disability Forum	Annually Quarter 1 of financial year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initiate and conduct educational campaigns to raise awareness about the plight and rights of people living with disabilities and Albinism campaigns. 	Manager: SPU Disability Forum	Annually
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Convene quarterly forum meetings with relevant stakeholders, forum to explore solutions to the challenges faced by people with disabilities, table reports on implementation and monitoring of programmes/projects. 	Manager: SPU	Quarterly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Co-ordination of commemoration of national and international days (National Disability Day etc). 	Senior Manager: SPU Manager: SPU	Annually
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mobilise resources to capacitate PWDs involved in business and other economic ventures and engage financing institutions for support of initiatives/projects of PWDs 	Manager: SPU Sector Departments	Bi-annually
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a database of all families with individuals with disabilities in all municipal wards so as to improve care and support of PWDs within their families and in communities. 	Manager: SPU	Annually
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilitate the development & implementation of projects/programme, monitoring & ensuring sustainability of PWD identified supported projects that seeks to address their needs. 	Manager: SPU	Monthly

ELDERLY PEOPLE		
Action	Responsible Person	Timeframe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness sessions about the role and existence of the elderly in our communities, to prevent abuse of elderly persons in the communities. 	Manager: SPU	Quarterly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that older person are involved in the policy development and implementation processes. 	Senior Manager: SPU & Communication Manager: SPU	Bi-annually
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote healthy aging by co-ordinating elderly games. 	Manager: SPU	Annually
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that elderly person's programmes and projects are supported by mobilising resources for them. 	Manager: SPU	Quarterly
CHILDREN		
Action	Responsible Person	Timeframe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct awareness programmes to prevent violence against children, awareness campaigns about their rights. 	Manager: SPU	Bi-annually
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate resourcing and support of the children programmes i.e. outdoor playing facilities/children's gifts 	Manager: SPU	Annually
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby for budget allocation for children's programmes and needs. 	Senior Manager: SPU & Communication Manager: SPU	Annually
WOMEN		
Action	Responsible Person	Timeframe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness and empowering programmes to prevent domestic and gender based violence. 	Manager: SPU Women's Caucus	Quarterly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celebration/commemoration of relevant national and international days (Women Day etc). 	Senior Manager: SPU & Communications Manager:SPU Women's Caucus	Annually
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empowerment and capacity building of women and creation of environment that allows them to actively participate in the socio-economic development of our communities. 	Manager: SPU Women's Caucus	Quarterly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct awareness campaigns for women about their rights and Gender Based Violence 	Manager: SPU	Twice a year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby for the appointment of women in decision making positions 	Senior Manager: SPU Senior Manager: CPS Women's Caucus	Annually

	Chairperson	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure participation of women in municipal structures that take decisions 	Senior Manager: SPU & Communications Women's Caucus Chairperson	Annually
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation & establishment of income generating projects for women to eliminate dependency & ensuring their sustainability. 	Manager: SPU Women's Caucus	Annually
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilise communities in general and men particularly to support campaign against women abuse and mobilise communities to campaign against perpetrators of violence against women. 	Manager: SPU Women's Caucus	Quarterly
YOUTH		
Action	Responsible Person	Timeframe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate economic development programmes, life skills programmes for the youth 	Manager: SPU Gender & Youth Officer	Twice yearly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate provision of necessary skills that will adequately prepare youth to contribute in the economy of the municipality. 	Manager: SPU Gender & Youth Officer	Twice yearly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enter into learnership partnerships with other organisations so as to advance the young people's skills & knowledge. 	Senior Manager: SPU & Communication Manager: SPU	Yearly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilisation of young people to be active and involved in sport related activities in all wards and organising Mayoral Games/cup working with local sports committees/associations. 	Manager: SPU Youth Council ULM Sport Committee Gender & Youth Officer	Annually
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exposure of youth to expose their talents as a way of contributing to their broader development in various music genres and sustainability (Youth Maskhandi Mentorship programme) 	Manager: SPU Manager: Communications & PR	Annually
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intense lobbying for youth development programmes with relevant departments within & outside the Municipality such as Local Economic Development, Infrastructure and Sector departments/ that are aimed at improving young people. 	Manager: SPU SPU Officers Youth Council	Quarterly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise bursaries and other support mechanisms aimed at assisting young people to 	Manager: SPU Manager: HR	Annually

<p>be educationally capacitated, Organise sessions with institutions of higher learning to expose young people of the different options and opportunities that they can pursue through Career EXPO (career guidance)</p>	<p>Gender & Youth Officer</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mobilise resources to assist young people who want to venture into business and organise youth seminars/workshops with all financial institutions & various capacity building institutes. 	<p>Manager: SPU</p>	<p>Bi-annually</p>

11. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The effectiveness of this strategy will be continually evaluated through monitoring of the implementation of the strategic activities and action plan. The municipality shall report quarterly and annually to the special group's forums on the progress made in implementing their plans. Municipal performance reporting should include reporting on progress made with regards to vulnerable group's programmes. The reporting system should comprise of monthly reports to the standing committee, quarterly reports to Council and the Forum and annual reports to the Council.

The special groups should play an active role in the monitoring, evaluation process and establishing efficacy of the strategy and the extent to which it achieves its aims.

12. REVIEWAL OR AMENDMENT OF STRATEGY

This special group's strategy needs to be reviewed after every two years as the municipality shall continuously investigate and explore innovative mechanisms of advancing special groups programmes.

Adopted by council on: _____

Confirmed By:

**COUNCILLOR NGONYOLO
SPEAKER**

**MR GPT NOTA
MUNICIPAL MANAGER**

Date: _____

Date: _____