



MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/25



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FOREWORD

It is my privilege and honor to table before this August House, the Annual Performance Report for the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.

The report, provides an overview of the Ministry's performance on financial spending on planned programs, projects and activities. The report presents the performance of the Ministry's internal departments which are: Administration department, department of Urban Government, department of Housing and Human Settlements and the department of National Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services. The report coverage then extends to external departments namely: Eswatini Housing Board, the fifteen (15) towns, referred to as Urban Local Authorities and the three (3) Controlled Areas, which are areas in transition to urban.

The objective of this report is to account for the use of public resources sanctioned by Parliament. The bulk of the ministry's total budget is made of transfers to the Urban Local Governments (ULAs) in form of recurrent subventions and capital grants for urban infrastructure development.

The Ministry, continues with the implementation of activities aligned to the sustainable goals adopted by the country and those within its mandate of creating an enabling environment for the development of sustainable shelter and human settlements. This is done through policy formulation, legislation enforcement and provision of bulk infrastructure services.

The Ministry continues to protect the country's citizens and their properties against the dangers of fire and other emergency incidents through timely response and proactive measures.

APPOLO M. MAPHALALA

MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE MINISTRY

1.1 MINISTRY PORTFOLIO AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1.1.1 Housing and Human Settlements

- Physical Planning
- Urban Land administration
- Housing Development (Sectional Titles and Township Establishment)

1.1.2 Urban Government

- Urban Local Government administration
- Urban infrastructure development and maintenance
- Refuse collection and disposal
- Development control (Processing of building plans applications)

1.1.3 Fire and Emergency Service

- Firefighting services
- Emergency & Rescue services (Paramedics)
- Fire training services
- Fire prevention services
- Scuba diving

VISION

“Innovative Planning for Safe, Sustainable Futures”

“Our vision is to create resilient, sustainable, affordable, and safe communities by ensuring sustainable land use, security of tenure, and affordable, decent housing through innovative spatial planning, robust regulations, and good governance, creating well-planned and inclusive human settlements for the residents of Eswatini. We strive to leverage contemporary innovation and integrated services to enhance the well-being and safety of all Emaswati. “

MANDATE

To formulate and enforce regulations, legislations, and policies that create an enabling and safe environment for sustainable spatial planning, development, and management of human settlements, urban communities, and Crown Lands.

MISSION STATEMENT

“Our mission is to create resilient, sustainable, affordable, and safe communities by developing and enforcing efficient legislation, implementing robust policies, and practicing good governance, ensuring access to quality housing, resilient spatial and environmental planning, and essential emergency services for all residents of Eswatini. We are committed to inclusive stakeholder engagement and leveraging innovative frameworks to enhance the well-being and safety of all Emaswati.”

1.2 STATEMENT OF VALUES

The following ethics and values are in line with the desired work culture and demands from the mandate that the Ministry is entrenching in leadership, staff and as a philosophy against which decisions are based and evaluate performance in the Ministry’s pursuit of excellence:

Respect

The Ministry commits to maintaining honesty and strong moral principles in all its actions. Integrity is foundational to building trust with the public and ensuring that all activities are conducted transparently and ethically

Integrity

Transparency

MHUD believes in openness and clear communication. By providing accessible and accurate information about its operations and decisions, the Ministry promotes accountability and allows stakeholders to stay informed and engaged in the development process.

Transparency

Professionalism

Respect

The Ministry values and respects all individuals, recognizing the diversity and unique contributions of each member of the community. Respect is demonstrated through fair treatment, active listening, and considerate interactions with both the public and staff.

Respect

Professionalism

MHUD is dedicated to maintaining a high level of professionalism in all its endeavours. This includes a commitment to competence, excellence, and continuous improvement, ensuring that services are delivered efficiently and effectively.

1.3 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Departments:

- Administration Department.
- Department of Housing and Human Settlements (DHHS).
- Department of Urban Government (DUG).
- Department of National Fire and Emergency Service (NFES).

Agencies:

- Eswatini Housing Board (EHB).
- Municipal Councils (2), Town Councils (6) and Town Boards (7).
- AMICAALL Eswatini.
- Eswatini Local Government Association (ELGA)
- Controlled Areas Mhobodleni (Manzini), Magindaneni (Shiselweni) and Sikhuphe (Lubombo).

Statutory Bodies

- Building's Appeal Tribunal.
- Human Settlements Authority (HSA).
- Town Planning Board
- Sectional Titles Regulation Boards

2.0 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

The legislative and policy framework that guides Ministerial activities in the execution of its mandate can be summarized as follows:

2.1 The Housing Policy (2001).

The review and update of the “Housing Policy for Urban Areas” culminated in a National Housing Policy that seeks to achieve a sustainable and equitable housing delivery system. The National Housing Policy was approved by Cabinet in 2001. Its vision is that “all EMaswati households should have access to affordable shelter and services”.

2.2 Sectional Titles Act as Amended (2003).

Introduction of the Sectional Titles Act tenure is aimed at facilitating the provision of more affordable housing to the country’s citizenry. This will be made possible by allowing the ownership of individual units within multiple story and detached housing developments.

2.3 Physical Planning Policy (2001).

The policy defines the most orderly and efficient means of planning development control. It sets out clear responsibilities for all the bodies involved in planning approval, and streamlines the approval process. The policy also provides the basis for the development of a single, comprehensive Physical Planning framework.

2.4 Urban Government Policy (1996).

This policy spells out the ideal local authority governance functions and responsibilities, infrastructural development, community participation, relationships with traditional authorities and local revenue generation and expenditure.

2.5 Urban Government Act (1969).

This is the principal legislation for urban local government that regulates the constitution of urban local governments, their functions and responsibilities. It also defines intergovernmental relationships to govern the three levels of local authorities which are municipal councils, town councils and town boards.

2.6 Rating Act (1995).

The main purpose of this legislation is to enable urban local governments to levy property tax in respect of immovable properties existing in urban areas. This aims at, among other things, developing local government finances with which to implement development projects and administrative services.

2.7 Building and Housing Act (1968)

The Building and Housing Act of 1968 gives authority over national building and development control in the country, a mandate that extends beyond urban boundaries. The legislation’s main function is to provide guidance on matters relating to building construction and development control. This act is currently being reviewed to incorporate contemporary challenges and developments in the sector.

2.8 Pounds Act (1966)

The Pounds Act establishes animal pounds and regulates the impounding, keeping and disposal of impounded animals. It also empowers the Minister responsible for local government to establish pounds and appoint pound masters.

2.9 Rating Regulations (1995)

These regulations define procedures to be followed by valuers in undertaking property valuations and the fees and allowances that may apply during the process inherent therein.

2.10 Crown Lands Disposal Act (1911)

The Act makes provision for the disposal of Crown Lands. Crown Lands refer to all land held in Title by government.

2.11 Crown Lands Disposal Regulations (2003)

These regulations prescribe the manner by which Crown lands are to be disposed.

2.12 Sectional Titles Regulations (2022)

To operationalize the Sectional Titles Act, 2003 as amended, the Ministry through the Sectional Titles Regulation Board (STRB) developed a set of Sectional Titles Regulations.

2.13 Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services Act (2022)

The legislation is purposed to addressing emerging needs within the sector such as recognizing the Fire Services as an essential entity in terms of operations. The Act inter alia covers the following; recruitment, retention, promotion and discipline.

2.14 Human Settlements Act, 1988 as Amended

The legislation is purposed to Regulated the developments of sustainable human settlement and establish the authourity thereof.

2.15 Service Charges By-Laws for Town Boards

All municipalities and Town Councils may make their own by-laws for the purpose of regulating peculiar policy issues in their areas. The purpose of these by-laws is to review fees and charges which have been in force for the past five years, and hence necessitate a review to cushion inflationary hikes associated with the provision of the services for which the fees relate. These have to do with among others, fees relating to payment of rates clearance certificates, copies of valuation roll, parking permit fees, bush clearing of vacant and /or overgrown plots, including trading license inspections.

3.0 PROPOSED LEGISLATION

3.1 PHYSICAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL BILL

The Bill seeks to consolidate the laws relating to land development, planning and human settlement. It also seeks to establish a comprehensive mechanism for development control at national, regional and local level. It proposes the establishment of a National Physical Planning Authority, the preparation of physical development plans, the regulation of development, subdivision of land, establishment of private townships and the establishment of a Development Appeals Tribunal.

3.2 RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES BILL

The rationale behind this bill is to harmonize relations between land lords and tenants by simply spelling out the rights and obligations of each party.

The Attorney General's Office has completed the legal drafting process and forwarded this document to the Ministry

3.3 REAL ESTATE AGENTS BILL

The rationale behind this bill is the regulation of the real estate industry with a focus on professionalism, (academic expectation and business ethics), registration and licensing. The Bill is at the stakeholder consultation stage

3.4 HOUSING BILL

The ministry lacks this legislation following that it was assumed to be incorporated in the Building and Housing Act which is currently under review. The review has revealed the lack of housing aspects hence the emerging need to develop this legislation.

4.0 REVIEWED LEGISLATION

- 4.1 Town Planning Act
- 4.2 Human Settlement Authority Act
- 4.3 Building and Housing Act
- 4.4 Rating Act

5.0 MONETARY PERFORMANCE

HEAD 24 RECURRENT BUDGET PERFORMANCE

The Ministry's recurrent budget allocation for the financial year 2023/24 was E 442,677,633 and it is released on a quarterly basis. The released funds were E 442,095,371 and the total expenditure incurred was E426,605,719 which amounts of the 94% expenditure based on released funds.

Description	Estimate Budget	Terminal Posting	Released Amount	Actual Expenditure	Committed Amount	Variance	Variance (%)
00 CTA Charges	3,925,988	3,925,986	5,255,984	4,544,399	364,714	346,871	7
01 Personnel Costs	21,125,984	21,125,986	19,433,512	16,230,712	-	3,202,800	16
022 Travel Transport and Communication	1,700,230	1,700,230	3,330,230	1,738,182	472,388	1,119,659	34
03 Drugs	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	-	10,000	100
04 Professional and Special Services	8,529,846	8,529,846	5,469,846	1,451,377	1,028,316	2,990,153	55
06 Consumables and office supplies	510,238	510,238	1,640,238	759,087	441,212	439,939	27
07 Durables			250,000	176,401	-	73,599	29
10 Grant and Subsidies-internal	406,705,580	406,705,580	406,705,561	401,705,561	-	5,000,000	1
11 Grant and subsidies-External	169,767	169,767	-	0		-	#DIV/0!
TOTAL	442,677,633	442,677,633	442,095,371	426,605,719	2,306,630	13,183,021	3

SUMMARY COMMENT ON RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

The percentage variances in the report are showing the true picture of the present situation and the Ministry is currently doing all the necessary processes to be able to attain its core targets and activities.

01 Personnel Costs: By end of financial year the under expenditure would have been normalized by the payment of salaries of the remaining months.

022 Travel Transport and Communication: the ministry is yet to pay communication bills (from MTN and EPTC) and staff travel claims

04 Professional and Special Services: the drafting of legal frameworks has lagged behind therefore fund earmarked for stakeholder consultation on the legal reforms have been rescheduled for the next financial year and at end of March 2025. funds also included consultant cost however the bid to procure services for one were not possible hence the Rating Act review is conducted by Officers with the aid of the Attorney Generals 'Office.

07 Durables: Funds were earmarked for the procurement of furniture for the Ministers' Office after the storm damage.

HEAD 26 RECURRENT BUDGET PERFORMANCE

The Eswatini National Fire, Rescue and Emergency Service's recurrent budget allocation is **E101,951,040** for the financial year 2024/2025. The release funds at reporting period is **E103,449,603** and the total expenditure incurred plus commitments is **E 76,370,563** which account for 74% of the overall expenditure to date based on the released funds.

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED BUDGET	RELEASED	EXPENDITURE	COMMITTED AMOUNT	VARIANCE	PERCENT VARIANCE
		E	E	E	E	E	%
00	CTA Charges	11,482,788	9,657,785	4,309,669	10,000-	5,338,116.00	55%
01	Personnel Costs	65,111,965	66,610,432	59,466,023	-	7,144,409	11%
02	Travel Transport and Communication	1,070,038	1,570,038	767,525	72,693	729,820	46%
03	Drugs	34,416	534,416	85,515-	-	448,901-	84%
04	Professional and Special Services	18,666,549	16,506,649	6,962,841	174,950	9,368,858	57%
06	Consumables	5,585,283	6,245,283	2,917,328	1,604,019	1,723,936	27%
07	Durables	0	2,325,000	0	0	2,325,000	100%
	TOTAL	101,951,039	103,449,603	74,508,901	1,861,662	27,079,040	26%

SUMMARY COMMENT ON RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

There are two other items worth highlighting; Drugs (item 03) and durables (item 07). The durable item reflects that there is no expenditure nor commitment against the released funds, whereas, the drugs item shows minimal expenditure having utilized almost 15% of the released funds. Both items have either less or no budget estimate at all while the department's ease of operation is reliant on the availability of them. Consequently, funds were re-allocated to address the needs.

In conclusion, the recurrent budget performance reflects a fairly moderate absorption rate of the allocated budget against the released funds. The Ministry will ensure satisfactory service delivery within the threshold of the budget allocation.

5.1 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS

Project name and number	Estimate Budget	Released Budget
X202/99 Urban Development Project – Infrastructure (Mhobodleni)	13,700,000	2,160,669
X202/99 Urban Development Project – Infrastructure (Moneni)	2,500,000	1,925,000
X480/99 Intergovernmental Development Fund	20,000,000	20,000,000
X510 /99 Development of Buhleni Local Authority	15,000,000	6,597,582
Total Head 24	51,200,000	30,683,251
P306/99 Replacement of Fire Fighting Equipment & Specialized Vehicles	6,468,000	0
P305/99 Rehabilitation of Fire Stations (Lobamba)	2,748,000	2,748,000
Total Head 26	9,216,000	
Total Ministry (Head 24 + 26)	60,416,000	33,431,251

Source: Budget Estimates Book and Government Accounting System by the end of January 2024 for the Capital Programme

Project X480/99 – Intergovernmental Capital Development Fund (E20 million) -The project constitutes a grant of E20million allocated to the Ministry to distribute amongst the smaller Urban Local Governments (ULGs) to undertake their various infrastructure developmental projects. Annually funding is allocated and distributed among the 13 Urban local Governments. Only five ULGs have been apportion the fund, each receiving a sum of 3.3 million; the Ministry is awaiting the transmittal of funds into the various ULG accounts for the projects to be implemented.

Project X202/99 – Urban Development Project (UDP) (E16.2 million) – The project involves the installation of bulk infrastructure (electricity, water, paved roads) in **Mhobodleni Zone 1**, including payment for supervision fees for the road construction.

The Mhobodleni Compensation payouts have been undertaken only 1(one) family is outstanding; pending is the documentation corresponding to beneficiaries of properties or their next of kin.

Project X510 /99 -Development of Buhleni Local Authority (15 million) –the project involves the establishing infrastructure designs and installation of the critical infrastructure in the town. The ministry awarded the contractor post finalization of all procurement procedures and road construction is ongoing. This financial year, Phase two of the basic infrastructure installation is anticipated (1,1km road to asphalt finish including storm water drainage).

Project P306/99 Replacement of Fire Fighting Equipment & Specialized Vehicles (6 million)- project involves the procurement of four specialized vehicles (1 bush tender vehicle and 3 light four-wheel pumper vehicles for Siphofaneni, Big Bend and Mankayane stations) for the fire and emergency department.

Project P347/99 Mobile Satellite Fire stations (2.7 million) -the project aims to rehabilitate the Lobamba station that was damage by the drastic storm of 2023. Funds to commence rehabilitation have been received by the implementing agent. Procurement of engaging contractor is underway.

6.0 ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

ADMINISTRATION

This department is mainly responsible for providing direction and leadership support to the other line departments of the Ministry, liaising with Central Government agencies to ensure adequate resource provision for undertaking the Ministerial mandate and acting as a custodian of all personnel related issues. It is also responsible for financial management and is custodian of all Ministries' stores. The department consists of five major sections, namely; the Human Resources section, Accounts section, Economic Planning section, Legal and Communication.

This department is mainly responsible for providing direction and leadership support to the other line departments of the Ministry, liaising with Central Government agencies to ensure a high standard of professional ethics is promoted and maintained; efficient, economic and effective use of resources is promoted; staff health and wellness, public administration is development-oriented; services is provided impartially, fairly, equitably and without bias; people's needs is responded to, and the public is encouraged to participate in policy making; public administration must be accountable and transparency is fostered by providing the public with timely, accessible and accurate information.

6.1. Minister's Office

The Minister as an individual politician and responsible for the decision and actions taken by the Ministry and share jointly responsibility by those approved by Cabinet.

Key Activities of the Minister's Office included:

- The Ministry as a member of a team led by Tinkhundla and development conducted a benchmarking exercise in Kenya, Uganda, Ghana and Zambia in order to ascertain good practise of Local Government system, blending of urban and rural system of local government to ensure the development of a single country wide local government system.
- The Minister together with the Ministry of Tinkhundla was part of a team that went for a benchmarking exercises conducted in the Republic of Uganda on Local government and Metro formation.
- Successfully hosted the first Local Urban Forum
- Hosted the First Fire Day

6.2. Administration

Coordinated budget consultations in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance in preparation for the 2025/2026 financial year.

Conducted exit interview for resigning officers in the Department of Urban Government and Department of Housing and Human Settlement.

The Ministry has completed the first evaluation for Head of Departments to support the implementation of the PMS.

Filled Strategic Positions

The Ministry has a staff compliment of 154 employees employed on permanent and pensionable establishment. The HR metrics incorporate employee headcount, recruitment activities, retirements, staff movement and training initiatives as well as the vacancy status

The staff complement is at 154 positions with 10 vacancies. The process of filling the vacancies has started and the positions include Local government officer (2), senior housing officer (1), and land officer (1) and assistance accountant (3). One officer, Principal Accountant, is on secondment. Seven officers under the review period exited through death (3) and retirement (4).

We have been able to upskill and train our officers on short term course on the following:

- Two Officers attended an International Conference for Leaders, Finance Managers and HR Professionals in Pretoria,
- Two Officers attended training in Taiwan on infrastructure and planning,
- One Officer attended workshop on informal rental housing,
- One Officer attended a short course on building smart and sustainable cities in Singapore.

In the reporting year our human resource in the Ministry was over stretched as we were not able to completely fill vacant positions. Those that were filled were overwhelmed by work as they have been vacant for a while. Most of our staff are due for long term training, however the unavailability of funds from the Government hinders personal development. Nevertheless, we shall continue to build capacity and improve on service delivery.

6.3. PS 's Office

Green Cities FAO Project

The Ministry received handover of the Green Cities National Geo-Observatory Lab and the Eswatini Local Government Association (ELGA) office equipment. This milestone is a testament to our collective commitment to fostering sustainable urban development in Eswatini.

Through the Green Cities Project, we are taking bold steps to transform our urban environments, ensuring they are more resilient to the effects of climate change. This initiative is not just about adaptation; it is about proactively investing in green infrastructure, open spaces, and urban agriculture to create sustainable and thriving communities.

In an era where data-driven decision-making is paramount, the role of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and digital technology cannot be overstated. The ability to collect, analyze, and utilize data effectively is a game-changer for urban planning and governance.

With the establishment of this Geo-Observatory Lab, we now have a central platform to monitor and evaluate key indicators related to climate change adaptation and mitigation. This will allow us to develop evidence-based policies that drive sustainable urban growth.

The observatory will also serve as a crucial monitoring framework, enabling us to track progress in achieving our Green Cities goals. Through these interventions, we are confident that our cities

will be better equipped to address climate challenges, optimize urban services, and position themselves as leaders in sustainable development. Additionally, this facility will enhance the use of technology in education and skills development, particularly for our youth, who are the future custodians of our urban spaces. Under the Green Cities Project, ELGA has been identified as a key stakeholder in strengthening local governance and facilitating climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. A well-equipped and capacitated ELGA will play a pivotal role in ensuring that urban governance structures are responsive, efficient, and inclusive. Through this initiative, we aim to empower councilors and city leaders with the necessary skills and knowledge to drive sustainable urban policies that enhance service delivery and economic opportunities for urban residents.

As the Ministry, we take immense pride in the progress we have made through this project. The facilities and equipment we are inaugurating today symbolize our commitment to building resilient, smart, and sustainable cities. This project will end in August, 2025.

However, our success will depend on the effective use and management of these resources. We urge all stakeholders to collaborate, share data, and leverage this opportunity to create impactful policies that will benefit generations to come.

Strategic Plan Review

The Ministry current strategic plan needed to be reviewed after its five-year existence (2019-2023). There was a need to redefine the direction in which the Ministry must travel, and establish realistic objectives and goals that are in line with the vision and mission charted out for it. The ministry launched its Strategic Plan on the 12th February 2025. By the end of this current reporting period the Implementation Plan and costing of the Plan will be completed and this too will be shared with the external stakeholders.

Implementation of Performance Management System

Subsequent to issuance of Establishment Circular Number 1 of 2024 by the Ministry of Public Service. The Ministry's heads of department have done the PMS planning stage and have been following the PMS cycles, culminating to an annual scorecard for individual officers in the Ministry. In an endeavour to comply with the requirements of the performance management system, senior and mid managers' positions have synchronized with the PMS and their roles and duties and are incorporated in the system (at Planning and Mid Term Review).

Workplace Wellness Programme

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development revived the Ministerial Wellness Committee having noted that issues pertaining to employee wellbeing have become increasingly prominent. The current workforce has a different set of priorities, and care more about workplace wellbeing, mental health support and policies, and achieving work/life balance. The following activities were undertaken in the reporting period:

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Public Service and the Ministry Health Non Communicable Disease (NCD) program we conducted a campaign on NCD's targeting our employees. The objectives of this campaign are to create awareness on NCD's among

government employees, conduct screening for early detection and management to prevent complications.

- The Ministry, together with Municipalities in the Kingdom of Eswatini participated in sports as part of their wellness programme held in Namibia – Swakopmud and Walvis Bay.
- Hosted and celebrated the World Aids Day for ministry employees from all department and Local Authorities.

7.0 DEPARTMENT OF URBAN GOVERNMENT

7.1 The department is assigned with the responsibility to oversee operations and functions (governance, administration & infrastructure development & maintenance) of all 15 Urban Local Governments including controlled areas.

The 15 gazetted Urban Local Governments are as follows; Mbabane, Manzini, Nhlangano, Siteki, Pigg's Peak, Matsapha, Ezulwini, Mankayane, Hlathikhulu, Ngwenya, Vuvulane, Lavumisa, Malkerns, Buhleni and Hlane and three (3) declared controlled areas, namely; Magindaneni, Mhobodleni and Sikhuphe.

Whereas controlled areas are a product of the Building Act, 1968, urban areas are proclaimed under the Urban Government Act No.8 of 1969, which Act recognizes only three levels of local government, viz, Town Boards, Town Councils and Municipal Councils.

The department executes its mandate through two major sections, namely; the Local Government Section and the Engineering Section within the department of Urban Government.

Attached to the Engineering Section is an Infrastructure Mobile Maintenance Unit through which the Ministry assists the small towns (Nhlangano, Siteki, Pigg's Peak, Ezulwini, Mankayane, Hlathikhulu, Ngwenya, Vuvulane, Lavumisa, Malkerns and Buhleni) and the controlled areas (Magindaneni, Mhobodleni, and Skhuphe) with infrastructure development and maintenance as well as refuse collection.

Also of prominence is that within the Department there are two other sections dealing with municipal finance (through the accounts section) and social, environmental health management.

The department of Urban government has planned the following activities for the financial year 2024/2025: Policy development; Legislation review; Control and development of new towns and controlled areas and Capital Program & Infrastructure maintenance.

7.2 Legislation Review

The Objective here is to harmonize Ministerial actions with constitutional provisions and to make existing laws and regulations compatible with contemporary challenges. Plans for the period under review involved the following: Complete the review of the Building Act 196 and the Review of the Rating Act 1995.

7.3 Rating Act 1995

The Ministry has submitted a budget request of E2, 500, 000.00 for the Rating act review exercise and development of a new Urban government policy in the 2024/2025 financial year, however the Ministry was not allocated the requested budget and thus would be undertaking the Rating Act review process in house, in collaboration with the Attorney General's office. The Ministry has

solicited inputs from stakeholders on section eligible for review and or amendment, it is envisaged that the exercise will be completed with a draft Bill by the 4th quarter.

Building Act, 1968

The draft document of the Building Act as reviewed was submitted to the office of the Attorney General for drafting and vetting. The office of the Attorney General has submitted this draft to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development for final interrogation by the stakeholders and then the final draft of the Act will be formulated and then submitted to Cabinet for consideration of approval. The Act required the drafting of Regulations, the draft regulations are yet to be interrogated by the stakeholders. After which, they will also be submitted to the office of the Attorney General for drafting. The office of the Attorney General advised that both the Act and Regulations should be submitted together to Cabinet and Parliament. It is envisaged that the final draft bill will be finalized before the end of the fourth quarter subject to availability of funds for stakeholder's engagement.

7.4 Development of new Towns and Controlled Areas;

The Ministry over the years has declared certain areas to be controlled for prospects of developing them into urban localities authorities. These areas include: Buhleni Town Council, Hlane Town Council, Sikhuphe Controlled Area, Magindaneni Controlled area, Mhobodleni Controlled area. The Ministry had planned to declare Siphofaneni and Sidvokodvo, and consultations are ongoing in this regard.

- The Ministry provided technical assistance in the form of seconding Officers on joint appointment to key vacant positions in the towns: Town Clerk, Treasurer, Engineer, and recently Town Planning.
- Infrastructure development and maintenance in these Towns is undertaken through the Mobile Unit. This financial year the Mobile Unit was scheduled to undertake its maintenance mandate at Mhobodleni Local Authority, Siteki Local Authority and Hlathikhulu Local Authority.
- At Mhobodleni Local Authority the Mobile Unit executed the following tasks: grading of brownfield roads, re-gravelling brownfields roads, cleaning of drains and culverts in the greenfield, demolition of compensated structures and cutting of overgrown vegetation at greenfield and brownfield.
 - At Siteki Local Authority the Mobile unit was scheduled to carry out Regravelling of 21km total length of roads located in all the Wards beging in September 2024. However, due to some unforeseen circumstances like the Fire's day the Mobile Unit could only move to Siteki third week of December 2024. So far the unit has managed to complete 14 km of roads which is 67% progress.
 - The mobile unit is moving camp this week to attend to an emergency at Nhlngano Local Authority that has been caused by the recent heavy rains which extensively damaged a number of gravel roads there.

- Buhleni local authority will be service on the 10th February 2025 in preparation for the Buganu Ceremony and proceed to Hlane thereafter to execute a similar function.

It is clear that the Mobile Unit will not be able to execute its work schedule as planned this financial year. Hlathikhulu is therefore shifted to next financial year and will be first on the schedule.

To carry out its mandate successfully and efficiently the Mobile Unit needs to be fully equipped in terms of Equipment and Plant. At present moment it is faced with a shortage of Compact Roller and Diesel Bowser. Compact Roller is very key to regravelling. The diesel bowser will help fuel the plant on site instead of transporting it on a Low Bed truck to nearest CTA fuel depots. Also the equipment breaks down frequently and replacement of this old fleet is necessary.

The department also assists Towns with processing of building plans applications, inspection of building construction, procurement and contract management for capital projects, refuse collection and disposal and hygiene regulation, including clearing of overgrown vegetation in public open spaces.

Governance and Administration

The Ministry continues to provide and also coordinate for training of local government officials on local government administration, Finance, Project and Environmental Management, as well as procurement legislation of government and its entities. The department with seven selected Towns (Manzini, Mbabane, Matsapha, Ezulwini, Siteki, Nhlangano and Ngwenya are in the process of developing local VLRs and are being capacitated through the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development in this exercise.

7.5 INFRASTRUCTURE SECTION

Building Plans Application

The Ministry received, in total, 198 Building Plans application for approval of which 59 were Commercial and 139 Residential. Only 5 applications were from uncontrolled areas / Swazi Nation Land. A majority of the applications were approved while others were recommended for re-submission and approved after areas of concern were rectified.

Building Inspections

This function of the Urban Government Department faced serious challenges of shortage of vehicles to properly and efficiently execute the Building Inspection function. In fact there was not a single vehicle available for this function to be carried out until recently when the new fleet of vehicles arrived.

Building inspections were only carried out in the small Local Authorities which have Engineers from the Ministry on appointment. These are Lavumisa, Hlathikhulu, Ngwenya, Buhleni, Mhobodleni and Vuvulane. All approved building applications from these towns were inspected from Setting Out stage to Roofing.

7.6 Capital Projects

Development of Buhleni Local Authority – Project X510/99

Buhleni Local Authority is a newly established town, based in the Hhohho Region. There is a large number of commercial and business activities taking place in the town. Since the town is new, it is still lacking basic infrastructure such as roads, electricity, sewer, water and telecommunication. The Ministry has moved in to try and combat these as there exists a high level of unplanned human settlements.

Progress Achieved:

An Infrastructure Development Contract of E10, 565,018 (Ten Million, Five Hundred and Sixty-Five Thousand and Eighteen Emalangen Six cents) was awarded to Roots Civils in September 2024. The contractual Commencement Date is 30th September 2024 and the contractual Completion Date is 30th March 2025 which means a construction period of 6 months. The scope of works includes:

- Construction of a stabilised gravel layer and Asphalt surfacing of 1.23km road
- Construction of storm water drainage
- Kerbing
- Providing Sleeves where services like water, sewer and electricity cross the road
- Signage and road marking

Urban Development Project – Project X202/99

The Urban Development Project (UDP) was developed with the intention to provide basic infrastructure such as paved roads, water reticulation, electricity reticulation, and sewer and telecommunication services within the entire Mhobodleni Local Authority. Mhobodleni Local Authority is demarcated into six phases or zones and it is an unplanned human settlement. The project seeks to upgrade the human settlement into a proper planned human settlement. Presently the Ministry is working on Phase 1 or Zone 1. The entire whole project or the six phases is estimated to cost E350 Million, but due to limited government funding the project is implemented on the available allocated budget.

Progress Achieved:

Inyatsi Construction (Pty) Ltd has been engaged in December 2024 for the sum of E11, 692,191.81 to carry out the Infrastructure Development works in this Local Authority. The Construction Contract duration of 4 months commenced 12th December 2024 and ending 30th April 2025.

The scope of works includes;

- Construction of 440m of roads to asphalt surface standard
- Demolition of compensated structures
- Relocation of water pipelines
- Installation of sleeves

Project status update:

The project is progressing satisfactorily save for some delays due to resistance by some property owners to adhere to demolition process yet they were compensated and allocated new plots about 10 years ago. The EWSC pipelines are also proving to be a great challenge as they are scattered all over the project area. That said, it is promising the project will be completed in time but a need might arise to reduce the scope of works a bit to cater for the problematic water pipelines in case we fail to adjust the horizontal alignment of the road. The Ministry has managed to construct paved roads for a distance of 1.9 km and access roads to properties affected by roads construction. The Ministry engaged Inyatsi Construction for the roads and storm water drainage construction.

Project Challenge:

The bad terrain of the local authority area and other areas have underground water/swampy thus it costly to treat the ground.

Capital Improvement Programs – Project X480/99

Government has allocated E20 million emalangeneni for capital improvement expenditure for the under listed towns this current financial year. In the last financial year, the Ministry was allocated the same budget for the capital improvement programme, after being cut from the initial E40 million five years ago. The table below outlines planned projects to be undertaken by the various local authorities in the current financial 2024/2025.

The table below outlines planned projects to be undertaken by the five (5) local authorities in the current financial 2024/2025.

Local Authority	Projects	Amount (E)
Lavumisa Town Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Bus Rank and Market Phase 3 (Works) • Development of Bus Rank and Market Phase 3 (Consultancy) • Installation of Speed Calming Measures (Humps) • Upgrading of Lavumisa Recreational Facility Hall; Courts; Pool & Lightning (Works) • Upgrading of Lavumisa Recreational Facility Hall; Courts; Pool & Lightning (Consultancy Services) 	4,000,000-00
Mankayane Town Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and Supervision of Lilanda Avenue Road • Construction of Lilanda Avenue Road 	4,000,000-00
Ngwenya Town Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation of cluster houses • Purchase of Waste Skips • Construction of Cemetery Chapel Ablutions and Borehole • Designs for sewer line at Ngwenya Township Ext. 1 • Construction of High mast light • Land Acquisition • Construction of Mabuya Township Drainage System. 	4,000,000-00

Vuvulane Town Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of the Vuvulane Civic Centre 	4,000,000-00
Malkerns Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of Heavy Plant and Vehicles • Establishment of Organic Manufacturing facilities • Installation of Streets Illumination and Security lights • Purchase and Development of cemetery land • Installation of road speed humps 	4,000,000-00
TOTAL		20,000,000-00

The allocation of the government CIP grant to the above listed local authorities is subject to their obtaining a positive grading in their annual organizational performance assessment.

Challenges:

The budget allocation to this programme used to be E40 Million and has been reduced to E20 Million only benefiting the few smaller towns. The programme was benefiting all the 13 Urban Local Authorities in the country and only the six (6) Town Boards will now be getting the funding. The funding under this program was established to help all the urban local authorities in the country in terms of the infrastructure development which is also key to the economy development of the country. The budget cut in the annual grant allocation to this program has had a negative financial impact on the seven other Towns and thus disrupted their short to medium term development plans. These Towns have been forced to borrow for infrastructure development.

This has also led to the collapse of infrastructure constructed as it is now difficult to continue with the planned infrastructure development which is usually undertaken in a phased approach manner, due to limited resources allocated.

Following that some of the towns are no longer benefiting to this program, this may result to another negative impact to the towns’ residents as the local authorities would be forced to increase their property rates tariffs and user fees in order to be able to fund their programs, thus worsening the already crippled cost of living.

7.7 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SECTION

Review of the Intergovernmental Fiscal transfer study 2018 for the achievement of economic stability and sustainability in all Towns.

The Ministry has submitted engaged central agencies on the review of the current funding modality for the subventions and grants paid to local authouriiite and including the proposed model of finaccing the capital infrastructure that was presented to Cabinet.

Development of User fees and charges Bye Laws (Regulations) for Town Boards 2024.

The Ministry, in line with Section 115 of the Urban Government Act No.8 of 1969 is developing user fees and charges bye laws for town board and other Towns without these. The purpose of bye-laws are for the following:

- the maintenance of the health, well-being and safety of the inhabitants of the municipality; or
- for the good order and government of the municipality; or
- for the prevention and suppression of nuisances in the municipality.

The Regulations will enable Towns to charge and collect various minimal fees for the various public services rendered; not limited to waste management, public parking, animal pound services, cemetery and public bus rank and market services. It is envisaged that these Bye Laws will be promulgated into law for implementation by the end of the reporting period.

Development of new Terms and Conditions for Councillors.

The Ministry is tasked with the welfare of all local authority Councillors through Section 8 of the Urban Government Act No. 8 of 1969. These have remained stagnant since 2018 and a slight adjustment in terms of sitting allowances review was implemented in September 2023. Currently an overview of the current terms and conditions is required to also include issues of medical aid and burial insurance for Councillors. The Ministry has not been allocated a budget for consultancy services for the review and will seek optional funding for the exercise for adoption and implementation next financial year subject to favorable national budget in terms of subventions to Towns to support its implementation.

Local government Bye Elections 2024

The Ministry conducted bye elections during the second quarter, for the replacement of a Councillor at Ngwenya Town Board that passed away last year. The elections were successfully held in August 2024 and the elected candidate has assumed office.

Eswatini Local Government Association (ELGA),

ELGA strives and endeavors to develop ways and means of representing the diverse needs of the different types of Local Authorities in Eswatini within ELGA's Governance structures so that the Local Authorities can be as all-inclusive as possible. ELGA has to date a membership of all Urban Local Authorities spread across the Kingdom. Currently, ELGA in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO-UN) are implementing a Green Climate Fund (GCF) funded Readiness Programme focused on preparing for public and private investment in sustainable green infrastructure, green open spaces and urban agriculture for adaptation and mitigation to climate change in urban and peri-urban communities. The total grant from GCF to ELGA is US\$900 000 (approximately over E16 million). The project has a Project Management Team, made of representatives from key government ministries and departments, Steering Committee, made of Principal Secretaries from MHUD, Tourism and Environmental Affairs and that of Agriculture and lastly, Technical Committee, made of technocrats from relevant government ministries, departments and relevant institutions such as the University of Eswatini.

The project was launched by the Honourable Minister of Housing and Urban Development on the 24th of May 2023. It will benefit all Urban Local Authorities (ULAs) in the country. Already, inception workshops have been held to sensitize all stakeholders on the project. The project aims to revive a fully-fledged ELGA office to be housed by the Matsapha Town Council and develop an

Observatory Lab to be housed by the Municipal Council of Manzini. The lab will be equipped with state-of-the-art equipment that will ensure issues of climate change are addressed in all the local authorities. The project implementation timeline was 24 months.

7.8 AMICAALL Programmes- Alliance of Mayors initiative for Community Action on AIDS at the Local Level

7.8.1 Sabelo Sensha Project

AMICAALL through financial and technical support from Young Heroes is implementing the *Sabelo Sensha* Project which means Youth Inheritance. This is a 3-year Project running from October 2024 – September 2026. The goal of the project is to avert new HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) and improve treatment outcomes for children and adolescents living with HIV by increasing access to sustainable services. The primary target population is orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) aged 0 – 17 years, their caregivers, Adolescent Girls (AG) aged 10 - 19; Young Women (YW) aged 20 – 29 as well as adolescents living with HIV aged 10-19 years.

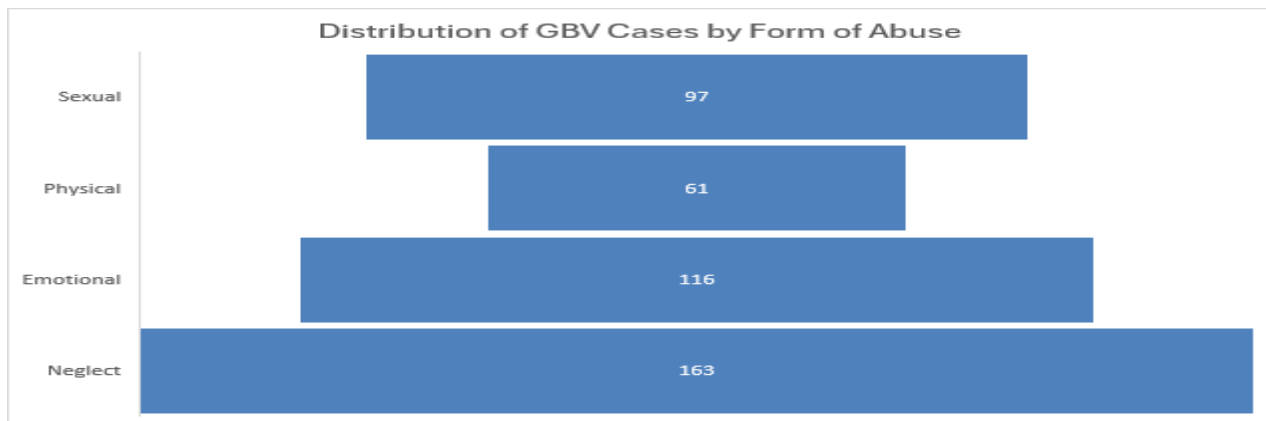
AMICAALL has been allocated four Tinkhundla which are Manzini North and South, Mbabane West and East. All these Tinkhundla are within the urban space. AMICAALL brings an urban space experience wherein dual governance exists. During the reporting period, AMICAALL appreciated contributions made by other DREAMS and OVC implementing partners in other towns and started tracking and reporting on those activities. Below is the distribution of implementing partners by town and city:

SUMMARY

- 24,825 OVC and caregivers are enrolled and receiving home visits
- 99% (2385/2406) of enrolled CALHIVs Adhere to treatment
- All OVC 0-19 Years old know their HIV Status.
- 24,825 OVC are enrolled and receiving home visits
- 99% (2385/2406) of enrolled CALHIVs Adhere to treatment
- All OVC 0-19 Years know their HIV Status

7.8.2 Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

AMICAALL works in collaboration with GBV implementing partners (SWAGAA, Cabrini Ministries, World Vision, and Young Heroes) in the identification and referring of suspected cases of GBV for post-GBV care across the 13 towns. Below is the distribution of new cases identified and serviced during the reporting period.



7.8.3 Economic Strengthening Package

- Business Mentors provide livelihoods education sessions to AGYW in groups on Financial Literacy, Employability, Entrepreneurship, and savings groups.
- Junior Achievement has been engaged to provide additional mentoring to beneficiaries who plan to start businesses.
- Private partnerships are also being sought to expand the reach for AGYW and to provide sustainability – Current partnerships are with ICDF; YERF, CFI, and more are in discussion.
-



MANZINI NORTH MP RECEIVING A BUSINESS START-UP KIT FOR THE BENEFICIARIES AND CAREGIVERS DURING THEIR GRADUATION AFTER UNDERTAKING A BEAUTY COURSE

AMICAALL continued building the capacity of AGYW on HIV and AIDS issues through skills-building group sessions at the community and ward levels. These sessions also sensitized AGYW on coping skills to prevent HIV infection. Stationed within the communities and referrals to nearby health facilities. The AGYW sets goals on HIV prevention risk factors such that these are monitored every month.

As part of the project's sustainability plan, AMICAALL is implementing economic strengthening activities to help caregivers and AGYW to become financially independent, this initiative further improves the well-being of the OVC and the family since through the proceeds from businesses and savings and lending groups, they have the buying power to provide for their needs. The table

shows a summary of the economic strengthening services provided in the period under review. A total of 80 beneficiaries received a business start-up pack, 75 beneficiaries enrolled for vocational skills training, and 65 were supported with internships.

Town	Business Start-up	Vocational Skills Training	Internship
Ngwenya	2	4	1
Piggs Peak	8	6	3
Malkerns	12	8	7
Ezulwini	11	8	7
Manzini	20	20	20
Mbabane	20	20	20
Matsapha	4	4	2
Lavumisa	2	1	1
Nhlangano	1	1	2
Hlathikulu	0	2	2
Vuvulane	0	1	0

7.8.4 Community Leadership and Young Men

AMICAALL also reaches community leaders with a gender norms manual. The activity seeks to help community leaders identify harmful gender norms within their communities and develop action plans to address the issues identified. The leaders consist of traditional and religious leaders to holistically address the barriers to accessing health services among AGYW. Adolescent boys and young men are also reached with an HIV prevention manual as well and service referrals are also conducted. Linkage to services is also provided through mobile clinics and nearby healthcare facilities.

Summary of Reach;

- 727 Young men reached education sessions
- 720 completed referrals
- 180 Community leader's committees provided with Gender norms
- 13 Action plans were developed towards creating an enabling environment

7.8.5 AMICAALL/AHF Key Populations project

AMICAALL in collaboration with AIDS Health Foundation (AHF) is implementing the Key Populations project focusing on primarily Female Sex Workers (FSWs) and other key populations in Manzini and Matsapha towns. AMICAALL's key role in the project is demand creation and making referrals for the uptake of high impact HIV services at the AHF clinic. Two (2) demand creation community cadre were engaged. Below is a table that shows the distribution of the key populations linked to services.

293
300
27
33
79
732

7.8.6 Community-Led monitoring

AMICAALL received funding from The United States Embassy to implement the Community-led monitoring project in the Lubombo region. The project is coordinated by CANGO who provides technical guidance in the implementation of the project. AMICAALL is implementing the project in 15 health facilities in the Lubombo region namely Good Shepherd Hospital, Lomahasha, Siteki Nazarene, Shewula Nazarene, Simunye, Cabrini, Sithobela, Siphofaneni, Gilgal, New Thulwane, Malindza Refugee, Bholi, Manyeveni, Vuvulane and Mpolonjeni Clinics. The project seeks to conduct a client satisfaction survey in the health facilities to identify areas of improvement in the HIV treatment program. The expected outcome is improved quality service delivery towards zero new HIV infection, reduced HIV-related deaths, and adherence to Anti-retroviral treatment. The project has three main objectives;

- To ensure that Community members can have access to quality HIV care and treatment services systems
- To create demand for the uptake of HIV testing, treatment, and care services and increase literacy
- •To identify barriers to treatment uptake and inform policy change

Achievements during the reporting period

- Recruitment and orientation of five (5) data collectors
- Facility entry and introduction of data collectors across 15 Health Care Facilities
- Securing and providing Data Collectors with working tools

Way Forward

- Conduct data collection in health facilities and communities.
- Data analysis and reporting

- Conduct facility and community feedback sessions where Corrective plans will be identified
- Identification of advocacy issues

7.9 CHALLENGES:

- Continued reduced allocation for CIP grant of E20 million, from E40 million;
- Delayed declaration of some highly developing local areas due to limited budget to fund their transition to controlled areas then Towns;
- The slow or delayed of clearance of rates arrears by government hinders planned activities implementation especially at local level;
- The immediate cut off of subventions grant allocation to Mbabane and Manzini municipalities this reporting year, disrupting their annual budget plans.
- Shortage of working equipment (vehicles and office gadgets).
- Non filling of key vacancies within the Ministry poses a challenge in service delivery.

7.10 FUTURE PLANS

- Development & update of a data base of an inventory of all government landed properties in Towns.
- Establishment and installation of an electronic building application system linked to all ULGs.
- Review of Urban government regulations 1969.
- Review of Elections regulations 1969. (before the next local government elections)

8.0 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND HUMAN SETTLEMENT

8.1 BUILDING APPLICATIONS

One hundred and forty-two (142) Building applications were received during the financial year. 80% of these applications were approved whilst 20% were denied/deferred. The types of applications received were broken down as follows: one hundred and fourteen (114) residential building applications comprising of both single family and multifamily (flats) dwellings and extensions; eight (8) boundary wall applications; one (1) industrial application comprising of storage warehouse developments, hardware's, waste disposal zones and fuel service stations; eleven (11) commercial developments comprising of retail shops and office developments; as well as eight (8) public facility developments- comprising of churches, schools and library.

REGIONS	LOCAL AUTHORITY	NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS	APPROVED	DENIED/ DEFERRED
HHOHHO	Ngwenya	33	31	2
	Nkoyoyo	1	1	0
	Buhleni	2	0	2
MANZINI	Mhobodleni	51	41	10
	Malkerns	5	4	1
	Mankayane	9	9	0
	Nkonyeni	1	1	0
LUBOMBO	Siteki	13	9	4
	Sikhuphe	1	1	0
SHISELWENI	Nhlangano	15	9	6
	Hlathikhulu	5	4	1
	Lavumisa	6	4	2
	TOTAL	142	114	28

8.2 SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS

Fourteen (14) subdivision applications were received during this financial period, thirteen were approved and one deferred.

REGIONS	LOCAL AUTHORITY	NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS	APPROVED	DEFERRED
HHOHHO	Mbabane	6	5	1
	Ezulwini	6	6	0
	Pigg's Peak	1	1	0
MANZINI	Manzini	1	1	0
	TOTAL	14	13	1

8.3 REZONING APPLICATIONS

The Town Planning Board convened three (3) meetings where Town Planning Schemes, rezoning; scheme variation and; appeal applications were deliberated on Four (4) rezoning and variation applications were received and reviewed by the Town Planning Board during this financial period. All applications were approved.

REGIONS	LOCAL AUTHORITY	NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS	APPROVED	DEFERRED
HHOHHO	Ezulwini	3	3	0
	Ngwenya	1	1	0
	TOTAL	4	4	0

8.4 TOWN PLANNING ACT 1961 REVIEW

The Ministry is in the process of reviewing some legislations which are outdated and require to be aligned with the country's constitution. The Town Planning Act 1961 sets out that all Local Authorities/towns should develop and have approved Town Planning Schemes to guide and regulate land use and development within the urban area.

During this financial period the following activities were undertaken in collaboration with the Attorney General's Office:

Consultative meetings were held with the Attorney General's office discussing comments/additions to the Bill received from Stakeholders and the Ministry in a bid to table the Bill before Cabinet and Parliament for consideration.

8.5 TOWN PLANNING SCHEMES

Vuvulane Town Board and Lavumisa Town Board whose Town Planning Schemes are outdated, have since embarked on the procurement process for a consultant to prepare their documents. Currently, the Ministry is assisting Ezulwini Town Council in the Town Planning Scheme preparation process by attending presentations and reviewing the submitted volumes of their documents. Furthermore, the Ministry granted Matsapha Town Council authority for the reviewing/preparation of her Town Planning Scheme.

8.6 LAY-OUT PREPARATIONS

In its quest to extend its spatial planning mandate to areas outside declared urban areas, the Ministry has provided technical advice and assistance in terms of the preparation of layout plans for Nhletjeni and Gamula Chiefdoms respectively. For Nhletjeni Chiefdom, two layout plans were prepared, residential and commercial with each use consisting of 41 plots respectively. On 31st January 2025, the Ministry presented both lay-out plans to the Chief, Inner Council, Imisumpe and community at large. To date, the Ministry awaits feedback to effect the necessary changes, if any.

Relating to Gamula, the Ministry has produced a land-use map for the Chiefdom. Whilst the Ministry is ready to present it to the Chiefdom Leadership, we have since embarked on a lay-out plan for Phase I consisting of commercial, agricultural, public open spaces and residential plots. In total, Phase I consist of 168 plots which constitute the number of existing homesteads in the area. Before the end of this current financial year, the Ministry will have presented this draft lay-out plan to the Chiefdom Council for consideration.

In the urban domain, the Ministry has prepared layout plans for Mankayane Town Board. One layout plan for commercial purposes at Mabovini was produced consisting of 35 plots and one (1) public open space. Secondly, an industrial layout plan was produced around the LAs existing Landfill consisting of 66 plots including three (3) public open spaces and the existing landfill. Under the Municipal Council of Mbabane's boundary above Mangwaneni Primary School, the Ministry produced a comprehensive layout plan for public facilities consisting of 25 plots including Eswatini Television Station, Mangwaneni Primary School, Digital Communication and Eswatini Water Corporation Service's water tank, and three (3) public open spaces. All three layout plans presently await survey and pegging by the Survey Department once approved at the Ministerial level.

8.7 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECTIONAL TITLES ACT, 2003 AS AMENDED

Following the end of term of the Sectional Titles Regulations Board (STRB) on 30th June 2024, the Honorable Minister appointed new members for a three-year term beginning 1st July 2024 to 30th June 2027. Although there were no meetings held to discuss applications and development of Sectional Titles implementation to date, the Honorable Minister officially met the new members of the Board. In addition, the Ministry held an orientation to give members an overview on Sectional Titles legislation and to discuss their role and duty in successfully implementing the piece of legislation in the country.

Three (3) meetings were held by the Sectional Titles Examination Committee (STEC) during the reporting period. The first meeting was held on 22nd November 2024 to discuss a draft examination manual for prospective sectional titles practitioners. The second meeting was held on 5th December 2024 to deliberate on a way forward concerning setting of examinations and appointment of an Examiner and Moderator. Finally, a meeting was convened on 14th of January, 2025 where STEC appointed an Examiner and Moderator for sectional titles examinations. In the same meeting, STEC finalized the setting of a date for the inaugural sectional titles examinations in Eswatini. The examination date is scheduled for March/April 2025.

Activities that have taken place during this financial year regarding implementation of the Sectional Titles Act are as follows:

Activity	Progress	Purpose
Exemption of Professionals	Three (3) Professionals through a Legal Notice (Gazette) have been exempted from writing the Sectional Titles Examinations. Issuance of certificates to registered Professionals.	To assist preparation of the draft sectional plans for sectional development schemes.
Manual	A manual for the preparation of examinations has been drafted by the Sectional Titles Examination Committee.	To be used by aspiring sectional titles practitioners as a guide in preparation for the sectional titles examination.
Appointment of Examiner and Moderator	An Examiner and Moderator have been appointed.	To set examinations and moderate sectional titles examination papers.
Sectional Titles Schemes applications	Two (2) applications have been received to date: 1. Malkerns Square Sectional Titles Scheme (Malkerns Town Council) 2. Meldoo Sectional Tiles Scheme (Ezulwini Town Council)	Applications are still undergoing technical review processes in preparation for submission to the Sectional Titles Regulation Board.

8.8 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AUTHORITY (HSA)

The Honorable Minister appointed new members of the Human Settlements Authority for the term beginning 1st July 2024 to 30th June 2027. Human Settlements Authority (HSA) is responsible for advising the Honorable Minister on policy matters that deals with regulating the development of human settlements, provision of housing; and the consideration of proposals for township development and land subdivisions.

Two (2) meetings were convened in the year under discussion. The following development issues and outcomes were discussed:

Application	Township Name	Location/Region	Number of Lots	Status
Partial Declaration of a human settlement	Mkhosi Township	Manzini, Manzini region	13 plots	Approved
Declaration of a human settlement	Sheba Mountain Estate	Ezulwini, Hhohho region	11 plots	Deferred
Declaration of a human settlement	Lukhwane Township	Matsapha, Manzini region	99 plots	Approved
Application to establish a human settlement	Extension 23 Estate	Manzini, Manzini region	28 plots	Approved

8.9 DEVELOPMENT OF RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES BILL OF 2024

The Residential Tenancies Bill of 2024, a piece of legislation that seeks to formalize rental housing lease agreements and promote relations between tenants and landlords, is at its final drafting stage after comments from relevant Stakeholders were gathered and incorporated into the document. The Attorney General’s Office has completed the drafting and vetting of the Bill which will be presented to relevant Stakeholders for final input. These Stakeholder meetings are scheduled to take place within the first quarter of the 2025/2026 financial year.

8.10 DEVELOPMENT OF THE REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS BILL, 2024

The Ministry has undertaken Stakeholder engagement consultations and collected their input. These comments were then incorporated into the pre-final draft by the Attorney General’s office. A stakeholder workshop was held on 30th January 2025 to present the pre-final Bill to all relevant Stakeholders for their input before the document is finalized for submission to Cabinet.

8.11 REVIEW OF THE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AUTHORITY ACT

The purpose of this review is to identify gaps and make proposals for the development of a new legislation that will provide for the establishment of sustainable human settlements, establish the Human Settlements Development Authority and regulate the development of infrastructure standards in the development of human settlements in the country. After numerous Stakeholder consultations were held and comments received from both external and internal Stakeholders, the Attorney General’s Office incorporated them to produce the final draft document. Presently, the Ministry awaits the approval of the final draft from the Attorney General’s Office for onward submission to Cabinet.

8.12 CROWN LANDS DISPOSAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Crown Lands Disposal Committee (CLDC) sat for meetings in the following urban local authorities: Manzini (1), Mbabane (2), Mankayane(2) and Nhlangano (1).

8.13 CROWN GRANTS ISSUED

In exercise of the powers conferred by the Crown Lands Disposal Act No 13 of 1911 in conjunction with the Vesting of Land in King's Order No 45 of 1973, the Ministry facilitated the issuance of Crown Grants from the following towns:

TOWN	NUMBER OF PLOTS
NHLANGANO	1
SITEKI	3
MATSAPHA	2
MANKAYANE	1
LAVUMISA	5
TOTAL	12

8.14 99-YEAR LEASES ISSUED

Glen Township, situate in Pigg's Peak was developed by the Komati Basin Water Authority (KOBWA). Eswatini Government leases this land to KOBWA for a period of 99 years. KOBWA is now subletting the properties to individuals and 99-year leasehold titles are issued to the third parties. The Table below shows transactions that were carried out during the course of the reporting period:

TOWNSHIP	NUMBER OF PLOTS
KOBWA (Pigg's Peak)	1
TOTAL	1

Mhobodleni Township, situate in Manzini peri-urban is being developed by the Ministry. During the reporting period, only two (2) plots (Table below) have been submitted to the Deeds Registry for registration purposes of 99-Year Leasehold Agreements.

TOWN	NUMBER OF PLOTS
MHOBODLENI	4
TOTAL	4

8.15 CERTIFICATES OF CONSENT TO SUBDIVIDE

Certificates of Consent to subdivide property were issued in the following towns in terms of the Urban Areas Subdivision Regulation of 1930. The Minister Consents to subdivisions received from the respective towns. The table below reflects the number of subdivisions consented to:

TOWN	NO OF PLOTS
MBABANE	5
MANZINI	1
NGWENYA	1
NHLANGANO	1
PIGGS PEAK	1
MATSAPHA	5
MALKERNS	2
LAVUMISA	7
TOTAL	23

8.16 AGREEMENTS OF SALE

The table below shows the number of Agreement of Sale submitted to the Ministry by local authorities for the Honorable Minister's signature once 5% deposit of the full purchase price has been paid by the Purchasers:

TOWN	NO. OF PLOTS
LAVUMISA	1
MATSAPHA	1
TOTAL	2

8.17 CROWN GRANTS LODGED FOR REGISTRATION

The table below shows the number of Crown Grants from each town, lodged by the Ministry for registration purposes at the Deeds Office:

TOWN	NUMBER OF PLOTS
MANZINI	1
NHLANGANO	1
SITEKI	3
PIGG'S PEAK	2
MANKAYANE	1
LAVUMISA	2
HLATHIKHULU	6
NGWENYA	3
TOTAL	19

9.0 DEPARTMENT OF FIRE RESCUE AND EMERGENCY

9.1 INTRODUCTION

The Ministry, through the department of National Fire, Rescue and Emergency Service (NFES) is responsible for fire prevention, ensuring timely suppression of all kinds of fires and provision of humanitarian services under emergency situations in order to minimize the risk, impact and consequences of emergencies or disasters to life and property throughout the Kingdom. It's essential vision and number one priority is to provide an efficient and effective firefighting and rescue service that is capable of combating all types of emergencies or disastrous situations using limited resources in the interest of public safety. The other functions include that of ensuring that the fire stations are sufficiently manned and equipped to effectively respond to all emergencies in fulfillment of the objectives set out in the Eswatini National Fire, Rescue and Emergency Service Act No: 24 of 2022.

9.2 Progress Achieved in the implementation of Planned Activities

9.2.1 Procurement of Firefighting Equipment and Specialized Rescue Vehicles: This activity involves the procurement of firefighting equipment and specialized rescue vehicles in an attempt to revive the Eswatini National Fire, Rescue and Emergency Service. This is under a long term programme designed by Government to equip the fire service with the up to-date firefighting and emergency rescue facilities. This programme was introduced due to the fact that the Central Transport Administration (CTA) department was not able to include them in their replacement programme because of the high cost of this equipment

Progress achieved – The Government provided a budget on project P306\99 to buy Fire and specialized vehicles L4P amounting to E6,468,000.00 aiming at buying two L4P appliances. An advert was made to invite tenderers (OPEN TENDER) and there was a positive response. However at tender opening conducted by the Finance Tender Board Committee only three tender documents were opened. Site inspections were conducted in respect of knowing the suppliers' premises to ascertain if they are capable of producing specialized vehicles. All tender proposals were evaluated and were disqualified hence process resulted in a FAILED TENDER position.

Monitoring of the Four-Shift System

The department of Eswatini National Fire, Rescue and Emergency Service (ENFRES) has the mandate of providing a 24-hours service through the shift systems. Government opted for the four-shift system in an attempt to reduce the number of hours worked by the personnel under the previous three-shift system which attracted exorbitant over-time claims.

Progress Achieved – Following the implementation of the four-shift system, the government has successfully eliminated overtime claims since 2020.

Fire Awareness Educational Programme

The department collaborated with various stakeholders to enhance community outreach efforts, which included: National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Montigny Forestry Company, Red Cross and Pigg's Peak Timbers. These collaborations aimed to strengthen community awareness and preparedness for fire related emergencies.

Progress Achieved – The department has actively engaged in various public education initiatives over the past twelve months. These efforts aimed to raise awareness about household hazards, fire safety, and drowning prevention. The following activities were conducted:

Broadcast Media Programs:

- Radio Programs: A total of 96 educational programs were aired on local radio stations, including VOC and EBIS.
- TV Interviews: 15 television interviews were conducted to disseminate crucial safety information.

Outreach Programs:

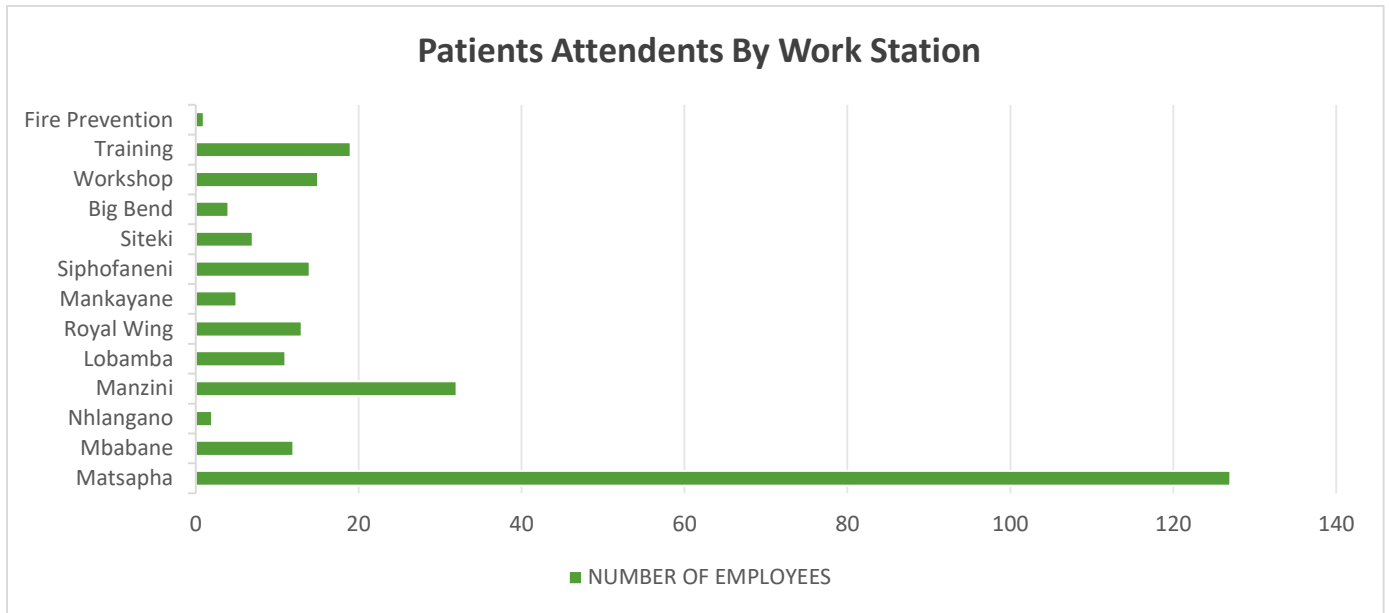
- Community Workshops: 13 outreach programs were organized, including two (2) workshops focused on fire safety and drowning prevention.

Fire Safety Inspections Compliance

Over the reporting period, inspections were conducted in the following sites: Tinkhundla (10), Government Buildings (12), Learning Institutions (4), Commercial Buildings (62), Police Stations (1), Health Centres (9), Building Applications (396), Inspections for Occupation (27), Lecture Awareness (38), Vehicle Inspection (7), Evacuation (27), Fire Certificates (33) and Pressure Tests (6).

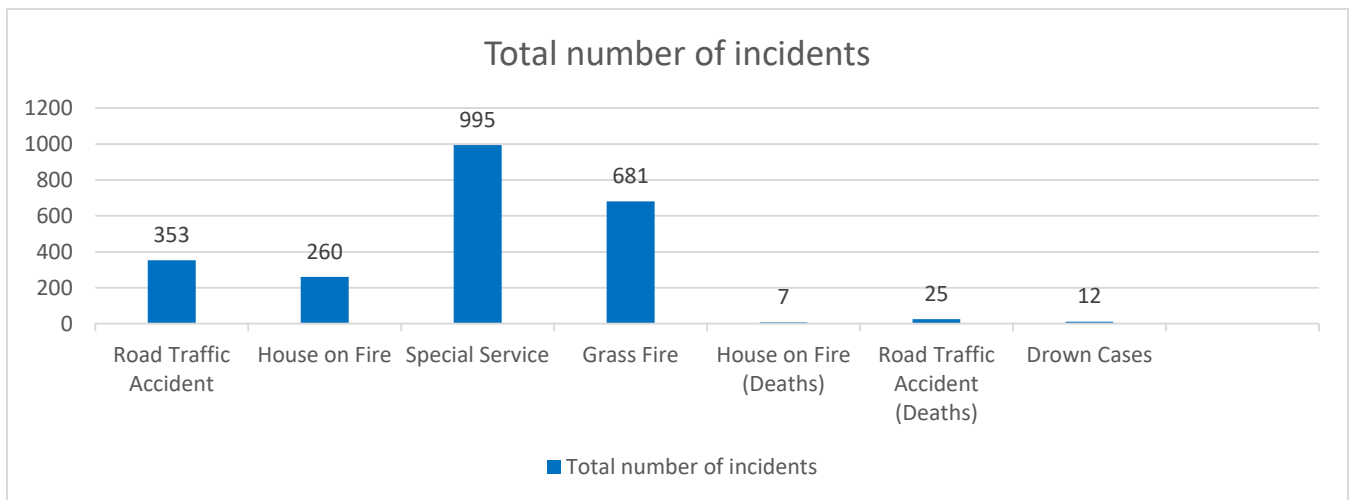
Wellness Clinic

The department has set up a Wellness Clinic centrally located in Matsapha Fire Station. The Clinic officially opened on 11th October 2024, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with Good Shepherd Hospital for mainly medical guidance assistance. The newly established Wellness Clinic is dedicated to provide wellness and medical care for fire employees, educate and advise about health-related issues, provide counselling and health education to employees and to help through monitoring the wellbeing of the employees. Below is a table showing statistics of employees attended at the Wellness Clinic from different Fire Stations and Sections over the reporting period:



9.3 Operations

Total **incidents** attended in the reporting period were as follows:



Snake Catching and Removal

The safety and well-being of the community are paramount concerns for the Fire Department, which extends beyond firefighting to encompass various emergency response scenarios. As part of our commitment to public safety, the Fire Department has invested in specialized training for officers in the skill of snake catching and removal. Currently, the Fire Department boasts a dedicated team of eight (8) proficient snake catchers who have undergone rigorous training programs to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills to safely and effectively deal with snake encounters. These individuals serve as crucial assets in the department's overall

emergency response capabilities, particularly in situations involving snake-related incidents. Below is an overview of the incidents involving snake catchers in the reporting year, highlighting the types of snakes encountered;

Shiselweni Region	Manzini Region	Lubombo Region	Hhohho Region
Spitting Cobra – 11 Brown House Snake – 8 Boom slang Green – 9 Black Mamba – 4	Black Mamba – 12 Spitting Cobra – 9 Snouted Cobra – 9 Boom slang – 12 Spotted Green – 4 Brown House Snake – 8 Vine Snake – 2	Spitting Cobra – 15 Black Mamba – 19 Snouted Cobra – 11 Brown House Snake – 17 Python – 2 Green House Snake – 4	Black Mamba-1

9.4 Training Center

The following received in-house training and external training during the reporting period.

Course Name	Number of Participants	Duration of Training		Institution Name
		From	To	
Recruitment Course	100	14/02/2024	11/10/2024	Fire Service Training Centre
Fundamentals of Chaplains	4	9/4/2024	12/4/2024	Fire Service Training Centre
Leading Firefighter Theory & Practical Certification Exam	49	22/10/2024	31/10/2024	Fire Service Training Centre
Sub-Officer Theory & Practical Certification Exam	107	21/10/2024	29/10/2024	Fire Service Training Centre
Fleet Management	4	2/12/2024	6/12/2024	EIMPA
Fire Risk Assessment & Prevention Strategies	3	2/12/2024	6/12/2024	Fire Prevention Association of Southern Africa (FPASA)
Industrial Fire Safety Course for the companies	90	27/12/2024	On-going	In-house training for stakeholders
Scuba Diving	10	10/2/2025	On-going	Emergency Medical Rescue College (EMRC)

9.5 Filling of all Vacant Posts

The Fire Service is in a drive to increase its coverage in the country hence the setting of satellite fire stations at Siphofaneni, Big Bend and Mankayane. There is also a directive to cover royal duties and residence due to the nature of our mandate.

Progress Achieved – The department has been awarded a waiver of 100 posts and the 100 recruits have successfully completed their training and deployed to various stations. Additionally there were internal promotions conducted for filling vacancies positions due to retirement and death.

9.6 DEPARTMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- The employment of 100 recruits
- The department hosted the first of its kind Fire Day event which was a great success
- The establishment of the Wellness Clinic
- A number of officers received training and development on specialized fields i.e. diving and Fire Compliance Inspection outside the country
- Fully operationalization of all the Fire Satellite Stations namely: Siphofaneni, Mankayane and Big Bend
- Partaking in the national cultural activities
- Being part of the AvOHC Team for the humanitarian crisis at Malindza Refugee Camp

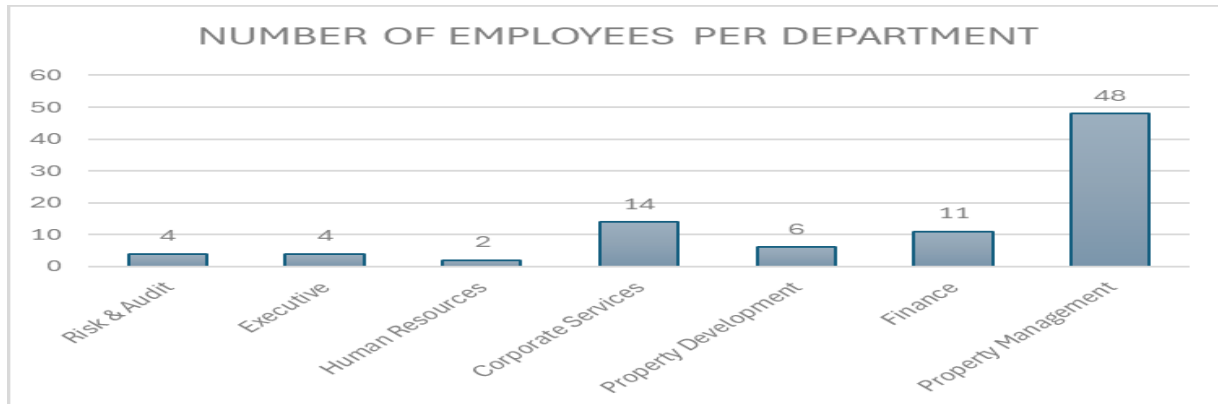
9.7 CHALLENGES

- **Fire Services Coverage** – Additional fire stations are still required in Lavumisa, Buhleni and Vuvulane where sites have already been secured.
- **Rehabilitation of Fire Stations** - The Fire Stations in Pigg's Peak and Siteki that are in urgent need for repairs while the rehabilitation of plumbing at the Training Centre is also critical in order to replace a dilapidated sewer line from the Training Centre to the City Main Line which is a distance of 150m.
- **Inadequate Housing** – The department continues to encounter challenges relating to inadequate housing for fire personnel. It is anticipated that the up-coming Institutional Housing Project will provide some relief to this challenge.
- **Operations** - inadequate fire engine and specialized fire equipment for operational purposes has a negative impact on service delivery.
- **Wellness Clinic** – Lack of drugs and working equipment
- **Training Center:**The delay of providing a budget for the construction of a College at Motshane is an adverse to our training space and the risk of our secured land to be encroached.

10.0 ESWATINI NATIONAL HOUSING BOARD

10.1 HUMAN RESOURCES

The organization has 7 departments, and the graph below illustrates EHB's staff complement per department as at 31st December 2024.



10.2 LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

EHB continues to strive for a highly skilled workforce and continually invests in the improvement of employees' knowledge and skills. During the year 14 Officers have been trained on areas ranging from ERDMS Training, Payroll, Procurement and Data Protection. Additionally, below is a list of learning and development initiatives facilitated during (October - December 2024).

Learning and Development Initiative	Participants/Delegates	Training Costs	Comments
IPM Conference	2 Officers attended the 2024 Conference	E11,040.00	2 days conference hosted by the Institute of People Management Eswatini
World Urban Forum	2 Officers World Urban Forum	E 161 117,71	Forum convened by the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat)
Corporate Governance Conference	4 officials attended the Corporate Governance Conference	E 157 261,12	Conference held in Cape Town South Africa

10.3 Review of the National Housing Board Act NO. 3/1988

Following Cabinet approval for the implementation of a National Housing and Infrastructure Program by EHB, a request was tabled to the Attorney General for the review of the previously approved Eswatini Housing Corporation Bill to incorporate this extension of the EHB's mandate. The process will commence with consultations with all affected stakeholders.

10.4 Improve Strategic Partnerships

EHB Customer and Stakeholder relationship initiatives continued through several platforms, these include, the weekly radio programme, newspaper advertorials and social media platforms.

EHB is still working on implementing a Customer Experience Management framework, a model that will measure, analyze, and improve EHB's customer experience. Through the "Improve Operational Efficiency" strategic goal, the organization is assessing the customer journey to evaluate any pain points that may prevent customers from receiving satisfactory service.

10.5 Capital Projects

Property Sales: Woodlands Ext.2

Four (4) plots were sold during this quarter at Woodlands Township Extension 2, with sales amounting to E2,114,254.00. As a result, two hundred and forty eight (248) plots have been sold in this township out of 283 plots available for sale. Total accumulative plot sales for the project amounts to E125,065,146.00. The total revenue collection for the 248 plots and 5 houses sold (E5,400,448.00) for this project amounts to E130,465,594.00.

10.6 Community Liaison Report

Conveyancing

- Msunduzi Package 13; Two properties were registered this quarter worth E17,368.00.
- Six 99 Year Lease Transfer to third party was registered this quarter.
- Mbabane Township Extension 25: Two properties were registered worth E15,928.00.
- Townships Extension 5, 13, 15 (Low Cost): No transfer registered.
- Two Sticks Townships – Manzini, Nhlangano and Siteki: Two properties registered worth E14,200.00

11.0 MBABANE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

11.1 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Description	Actual (2023/2024)	Budget 2024/2025	Actual Q1 ended	Actual Q2 ended	Actual Q3 ended	Actual Q4 ended	Actual Total	Variance %
INCOME								
Rates-Priv	86,225,604	89,004,000	47,045,314	20,551,650	11,342,631	9,300,000	88,239,595	99%
Rates-Govt	62,820,046	66,014,000	18,770,988	18,770,988	18,770,988	18,770,988	75,083,952	114%
Own revenue	18,284,831	14,570,000	4,436,996	4,795,943	3,576,220	1,316,100	14,125,259	97%
General grant	0	7,663,000	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL	167,330,481	177,251,000	70,253,298	44,118,581	33,689,839	29,387,088	177,448,806	100%
EXPENDITURE								
Personnel	55 277 217	59,372,000	13,111,288	13,162,823	15,965,509	13,124,000	55,363,620	93%
Recurrent	40,715,831	63,800,000	14,524,964	11,923,191	15,677,881	14,045,020	56,171,056	88%
Special expenditure- recurrent	15 671 367	14,921,000	4,089,941	3,330,202	4,874,918	4,298,354	16,593,415	111%
Special expenditure - capital	45 966 187	37,811,001	3,367,394	4,255,300	4,181,284	5,218,292	17,022,267	45%
TOTAL	157,630,601	175,904,000	35,093,586	32,671,515	40,699,591	36,685,665	145,150,357	83%

11.2 Major Developments

Appointment of a CEO – During the year, Council finally engaged the Town Clerk/CEO in accordance with the law. The CEO immediately got down to business and brought the much-needed stability and stewardship in the municipality.

Annual Operating Plan (AOP) preparation – Council’s budget got approved by the Honourable Minister. This ensures that Council will start the new financial year with an approved budget thus increasing the chance of the municipality implementing all its programmes and projects. Most importantly, it allows for a longer collection cycle of rates due through early billing. This gives reprieve to ratepayers and ensures a healthy cashflow for Council over the year.

Mbabane Marathon and Open Day – The Municipal Council of Mbabane successfully hosted its Mbabane Day. This day which drew residents of Mbabane in numbers comprised of a Marathon and fun run, golf and other activities. The event was meant to build cohesion among residents and stakeholders. The marathon was sponsored by FinTech (MOMO) to the tune of E250,000, a first of its kind. This has spurred the municipality to plan for a bigger and better Mbabane Day experience in future.

Mbabane Food Safety Week – Council successfully celebrated the Mbabane Food Safety Week in December to elevate food safety awareness and practices among Council staff and Mbabane community.

The informal settlements upgrading programme: The emphasis was on speeding up the allocation of plots to project beneficiary as well as finalising plot prices in Malagwane. The plot allocation policy review was completed, and plot pricing parameters finalised. All was set for the allocation of plots with prices for Malagwane informal settlement.

Urban October – The city actively participated in the inaugural celebrations of Urban October a month dedicated to promoting the future of urban spaces and development. Urban October provided an opportunity for everyone to be part of conversations about the challenges and opportunities created by the fast rate of change in our cities and towns. Everyone interested in sustainable urbanization from national and local governments to universities, NGOs and communities was encouraged to participate in activities, events, and discussions. The country organized an indaba, hosted by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Development. The landmark event brought together local and international stakeholders under the theme “Sustainable Urbanisation in Eswatini: Working Towards Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, New Urban Agenda, and Agenda 2063.”

Review of Parks in the eyes of Pre-schools – Flowing from Urban October, pre-scholars from the city’s pre-schools were engaged to solicit views on how the city’s parks can be made safe and interesting from their perspective. Interesting views were gathered which Council will implement.

Podcast on challenges by ILA Alumni - Another interesting conversation in the form of a podcast was hosted by the International Leadership Academy Alumni (ILA) (Fort Worth) where issues of youth in cities and issues of youth unemployment featured prominently.

Disaster Management – Surveillance on disaster threats in the city was maintained. The city experienced three diverse emergency threats during the course of the financial year. The first emergency threat was wildfires which threatened property in the city. The second was the lack of rains, which resulted in the drying up of dams hence threatening water supply to the city. The third emergency was the torrential rains received in the early fourth quarter. These wreaked havoc to infrastructure and caused localized flooding. In all emergency situations, Council ensured that while managing the situations with the NDMA, Mbabane citizens were not alarmed into taking rash action.

Smart City Programme Implementation – Council aligned its IDP with the Smart City Framework and drew up a comprehensive implementation plan. In addition, Council and its partners completed implementing the 5G & Smart City Surveillance project. The equipment from the ROC Taiwan arrived and was installed. This included installation of 50 surveillance cameras in the city centre as well as fitting of the control room in Council offices with visual equipment and servers.

Crown Land Disposal Committee – After an extended period of not sitting, the Crown Land Disposal Committee finally met during the year and took several sessions in dealing conclusively with crown land applications in the municipality of Mbabane, including a site to relocate CTA to. Other allocations included parastatals and individuals.

11.3 FUTURE PLANS

The Council will focus on the following programmes in the following year:

- **Implementation of the IDP** – Council will continue focusing on the implementation of the IDP and is being used as a basis for formulating next year’s budget for the municipal council. The plan outlines all projects and programmes that will be undertaken during this period including indicative projects whose implementation will be contingent on securing funding through funding mobilization initiatives.
- **Funding Mobilization** – A concerted effort will be made to secure funding for the implementation of projects and programmes contained in the 2024 – 2029 Integrated Development Plan (IDP). In particular, focus will be on mobilizing funding for the construction of the second cell of the Landfill which is left with about two years of operation of the current cell. At least E50 million will have to be raised for this project. The issue of informal settlements upgrading has become critical with mounting pressure to lift the building ban.
- **Implementation of the informal settlements upgrading projects** where the aim is the eradication of slums in the city and enabling residents access to secure tenure. The upgrading project will enable Council to uplift the building ban thus enabling residents to build and extend their houses to the required standards thus ensuring their safety and wellbeing.

Priority will be given to Malagwane due its state of readiness. This will require approximately E100 million to be raised initially.

- **Public Private Partnership (PPPs)** – Council will accelerate efforts to get PPP projects off the ground. Focus will be on the Upgrade of the bus rank, Multi-Use Commercial Development project & Civic Centre as well as the Residential Developments in Mkhonubovu and Mvangati streets projects.

11.4 CHALLENGES

- **Inability of Government to settle amounts owing for rates timeously** - Council is being owed in excess of E90 million in rates by Government, including rates from the previous years. This has greatly affected Council's plans and operations in that it now depends on its fast-diminishing reserves and the limited payments from private ratepayers. Government's budget for rates do not reflect the communicated amounts by Council, for some unknown reason. This has forced Council to scale back on a number of its planned activities.
- **Discontinuation of Subvention** – This has resulted in Council having to scale back in the implementation of some programmes. The most affected are those classified as unfunded mandates, comprising mostly of social programmes. A concerted effort is being made to restore this much needed funding source.
- **Review of Urban Laws** – The laws governing the operations of the municipality are outdated and are not in keeping with current and best practices. These are the Rating, Building and Town Planning Acts. The slow pace of review of drafted legislation impacts on Council's ability to be responsive to the demands of its stakeholders.
- **Plot Payments under the UDP** - The payment for plots by project beneficiaries continues to be slow with less than 50% having paid in full in all the UDP areas over the 10 years since the project was completed. The challenge appears to be affordability for some and avoidance for payment of rates for others. This slow payment combined with lack of financial subsidies from Government renders the roll out of further upgrading of the other informal settlements impossible because the payment for the plots was meant to provide funding for the upgrading of the other remaining settlements as a revolving fund.
- The non-resolution of the **Mangwaneni issue** by the authorities on whether it is under the municipal jurisdiction is affecting Council's ability to enforce municipal planning and building laws, resulting in illegal structures being built in the area.

12.0 MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MANZINI

12.1 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The Municipal Council of Manzini had planned numerous programmes and projects obtained from the 2024-2030 Integrated Development Plan (IDP). This report seeks to provide update on progress made in implementing the planned programmes and projects during the 2024/2025 Second Quarter period.

Income Type	2024/2025 Budgeted Income (E)	Actual Income as at 30th June 2024 (E)	Actual Income as at 30th September 2024 (E)	Actual Income as at 31 st December 2024 (E)	Projected Income as at 31 st March 2025 (E)	Budget Performance %
Rates	91,478,382	41,729,760	22,478,503	21,112,515	16,235,000	111%
Own Source Revenue	9,667,068	1,994,732	1,788,205	2,473,696	1,925,000	85%
Recurrent Grant	3,677,400	-	-	-	-	0%
Mkhosi Township	3,000,000	-	-	-	-	0%
EXTERNAL FUNDS	25,000,000	10,000,000	2,400,000	10,000,000	2,700,000	100%
Finance Income	168,000	6,184	7,481	815	5,500	12%
TOTAL	132,990,850	53,730,626	26,674,189	33,587,026	20,865,500	101%
EXPENDITURE						
Personnel	40,379,767	11,915,598	12,099,979	12,269,003	12,271,005	120%
Recurrent Expenditure	71,125,646	10,743,479	8,512,470	8,425,149	2,220,995	52%
Special Expenditure- Capital	9,753,793	11,252,938	3,368,020	4,076,670	1,475,500	135%
Capital Improvement program	11,684,662	16,207,306	5,439,269	6,466,321	6,700,000	298%
TOTAL	132,943,869	50,119,321	29,419,738	31,237,143	22,667,500	100%

12.2 Capital Programme

Fairview Mixed-Use Centre Development: The municipality had planned to develop a Mixed-Use Commercial Centre at Fairview South through the Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) concept. Following the completion of an open tender process, the municipality partnered with MA Property Developers/Inyatsi Group to undertake the conceptualization and development of the Fairview Mixed-Use Commercial Centre Development. During the reporting year, the contractor continued with the project works which included completion of blockworks, roofing and painting of complex shops, commencement of police station structure construction and finishing works of the parking area. The project progress status was 99% complete at the end of the reporting period.

Operationalisation Paid Parking System: Following the lapse of the contract of the service provider engaged for the operationalisation of the Manzini CBD Paid Parking System at the end of the last Financial Year, the municipality commenced with the procurement process for awarding a new contract for the service. The proposals evaluation exercise was completed during the reporting year and the Municipality issued an intention to award the assignment. Unfortunately, one of the bidders filed for a review of process and the matter was still before the country's courts at the end of the reporting period. The Municipality resolved to operating the service utilizing internal resources whilst awaiting conclusion of the matter.

Development of Manzini Mall (Old Trade Fair): The Manzini Mall Development project was conceptualized for implementation through the Public Private Partnership (PPP) between the Municipality, Eswatini Government and Ntoese Developers. The project entails the construction of a state-of-the-art Manzini Mall at the Old Trade Fair site, the development shall also entail the reconstruction of the Main Bus Rank site, and the construction of a bridge across Mzimnene River. The project shall be undertaken in a three-phase approach of which the first phase shall be the reconstruction of the Manzini Main Bus Rank. During the reporting period the engaged contractor managed to continue with the excavation works on site in preparation for the imminent temporary relocation of the main bus Rank activities on to the old Trade Fair site. The contractor also managed to complete the dismantling of the Malunge Pavilion structure which stood at the site of the temporary bus rank.

Rehabilitation of the Pound Facility: The organization had planned the upgrading of the pound facility which includes the relocation and reconstruction of the Pound Kraal, installation of fencing, construction of a pound office and ablution facilities. For this reporting period, the municipality has managed to complete the installation of water supply and power supply for the pound facility.

Rehabilitation of the Abattoir Facility: In an effort to enhance the production and supply of hygienic and safe meat in the city, the municipality planned for the rehabilitation of the abattoir facility. The scope of the project includes the rehabilitation of existing cold-rooms, hoists and scales to full functionality. During the reporting period the Abattoir rehabilitation was completed. Activities carried out in the reporting period include tiling of the cold rooms, rehabilitation of electrical cables for air-conditioning.

12.3 Infrastructure Maintenance Programme

- The municipality continued with the implementation of maintenance works on different infrastructure and facilities around the city which includes roads maintenance, vegetation control, traffic lighting, street lighting etc.
- During the reporting period, the municipality managed to cover 33.36km in pothole patching and 29.1km in road grading and spot regravelling. Attended streets include; Sandlane Road, Tenbergen Street, Ngwane Street, Nkoseluhlaza Street, Central Distributor Road, Ian Street and River Road.
- Cleaning of open stormwater drains to mitigate effects of climate change; the Municipality cleaned a total distance of 49.317km. Townships covered include Ngwane Park, D98 road, Stanley Street, Shadrack street, MR3 road. The Municipality also conducted road painting and marking works and covered a distance of over 20km.
- The Municipality also continued with the control of vegetation overgrowth on road reserves and open spaces in the CBD and Townships. A total area of 900,042 m² was covered during the period which included; Central Distributor Road, Cemetery, CBD Parks, Mabasa Street, Woodmaster Township and Dr David Hynd Road.

12.4 Review and Development of 2024-2030 Integrated Development Plan

During the reporting period, the municipality continued with finalization of the Review and Development of the 2024-2030 Integrated Development Plan (IDP) a process which commenced in the previous Financial Year. It can be reported that the office managed to facilitate internal stakeholder consultations for collecting employees' inputs towards the development of the IDP and commenced the technical drafting of the IDP document. At the end of the reporting period, the Draft 2024-2030 IDP had been developed and approved by Council and submitted to the MHUD for Ministerial approval.

12.5 Information Dissemination

As guided by the 2024-2030 Integrated Development Plan and good corporate governance principles, the municipality continued to ensure that citizens and the general members of the public are regularly update service delivery initiatives. The Municipality managed to facilitate the publishing of (24) Manzini City News Articles in the Times of Eswatini and Eswatini Observer. Published articles included sensitization of stakeholders on city bylaws, updating of stakeholders on implementation of planned programmes and invitation of residents to city events. The Municipality further maintained its visibility on the digital media space through the dissemination of (250) service delivery posts on the (4) municipality's social media platforms which include Facebook, X (former Twitter), LinkedIn and Instagram.

Participation in International Trade Fair: As guided by the 2024-2030 IDP Strategic Objective, "To stimulate city economic growth and job creation by 2030", the municipality participated in the 2024 International Trade Fair for purposes of showcasing the municipality's services and positioning the city for investment opportunities. In line with the

theme “Accelerating Business Growth Through Digital Transformation”, the municipality showcased the city’s economic development activities, different municipal services offered to support business growth in the city.

For this year’s trade fair, the municipality partnered with Matsapha Town Council for a collaboration in the exhibition of services as per the sister city relationship and direction from the throne on development of a metropolitan on the corridor. The joint stand received over (500) visitors and received (98) customer feedback.

The municipality further hosted a business seminar whereby government agencies, NGOs and the business sector deliberated on the impact of ICT on service delivery and how can government agencies harness the benefits of technology for improved efficiencies.

Quality Management System: In an effort to ensure consistent and systematic delivery of municipal services to the satisfaction of city residents, the organization continued to adhere to the international best practices based on the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS) and ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System (EMS). During the reporting period, the municipality underwent an external audit conducted by TUV Rheinland to assess the level of compliance to the management systems. The audit findings were positive, and the municipality was recommended for certification on the ISO 14001:2015 and retained qualification on the ISO 9001:2015 standard.

Coordination of Council Business: The municipality managed to coordinate (18) Council meetings of which (12) were Statutory, and (6) Special Council Meetings. It can also be reported that all meetings’ minutes were appropriately coordinated and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development as per Section 22 (5) of the Urban Government Act 1969.

Public Order and Security: The municipality continued with the implementation of initiatives aimed at ensuring adherence to city bylaws and eradication of all forms of public nuisances in the urban area. During the reporting, the Municipality in collaboration with the Manzini Crime Prevention Forum hosted (5) Crime Prevention campaigns in the Central Business District (CBD) and in the townships for sensitizing the public on prevalent criminal activities in the city and techniques for protecting life and property against criminal acts. The Municipality also collaborated with the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) in conducting over (20) compliance raids in business establishments around the city during which (2) establishments were fined for contravening city bylaws governing conduct of businesses in the city.

The Municipality further continued with the CCTV Surveillance Installation Programme wherein (3) cameras were installed in strategic areas at the CBD which are; the Bus Rank, President Centre and along Mhlakuvane street.

12.6 Urban Planning and Community Development

The Municipality has a mandate of facilitating development through urban planning, community development and regulation of the built environment within the city. During the reporting period, the Municipality managed to undertake the following programmes.

Establishment of Green Farming Project for the Youth: In an endeavour to enhance food security and job opportunities amongst the youth of Manzini, the Municipality conceptualized the Green Farming Project. The purpose of the project is to provide farming space and technical assistance to young people having an interested in crops and vegetable production. During the reporting period, the organization continued with the implementation of the pilot phase of the project in Ward 3 where received applications from interested youth were evaluated and (21) applicants enrolled to benefit from the Municipality's support.

Establishment of Youth Revolving Fund: The Youth Revolving Fund Programme is an initiative by the organization aimed at providing seed capital to youth business start-ups and entrepreneurs looking to expand their operations. This project provides loans to the youth as per their business proposals at one percent interest repaid over a period not exceeding 36-months. During the reporting period, the Municipality managed to award loans to (2) youth entrepreneurs to the value of E30,000.00.

Hosting of Flea Markets: As part of the Local Economic Development initiative of increasing trading opportunities for entrepreneurs operating in the city, the Municipality hosted two (4) quarterly flea markets at the Central Business District Flea on Louw Street. The Municipality further hosted (3) Township Flea Markets as part of its programme of bringing economic activities closer to the communities. These initiatives benefitted over (600) entrepreneurs with trading opportunities.

Informal Sector Capacitation on Business Management: The Municipality hosted a vendor's seminar during the reporting period. The objective of the seminar was to capacitate the city's informal traders (vendors) on business growth and development. A total of (45) vendors representing all the different vending zones attended the seminar. The training session was supported by the Small Enterprise Development Company (SEDCO) as well as the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade. The Municipality also hosted an informal sector indaba during the reporting period. A total of (50) vendors representing all the different vending zones attended. The aim of the vendors indaba was to discuss the key challenges that they experience on a day-to-day basis as they conduct trade in the city as well as recommending solutions.

Disaster Risk Management: The Municipality continued to implement various disaster risk reduction initiatives for the city. During the period, the Municipality managed to continue facilitating the review of the city's Disaster Risk Management Plan and a draft plan had been produced in readiness for presentation to stakeholders. The Municipality also managed to host (4) quarterly meetings for the city's Disaster Risk Management Committee where numerous disaster readiness issues were discussed including the weather patterns projects and state of diseases outbreak in the city.

12.7 Community & Stakeholder Engagement Services

Establishment of Primary and High School Reading Clubs: In collaboration with the Manzini Library, the Municipality successfully established reading and public speaking clubs in (20)

primary and high schools across the city during the reporting period. This initiative aims to foster a culture of reading and learning amongst the city's young generation whilst also developing public speaking, debate and leadership skills amongst learners. The programme was officially launched during a ceremony attended by (85) participants, including learners, teachers and renowned Eswatini authors.

Celebration of Children's Rights Day: The Municipality successfully hosted the 2024 Children's Rights Day during the reporting period: the primary objective being to sensitise high school learners in the city about their rights. The event, which took place in a collaborative and engaging setting, was attended by learners from (10) high schools within the City of Manzini. The theme for this year's event was *#ForEveryChild, Every Right!* The learners participated by presenting their interpretations of children's rights through various forms of art such as poetry, debate, delivery of written speeches and a panel discussion.

Commemoration of Persons with Disabilities Day: The Municipality, in collaboration with the Federation of Disabled Persons in Swaziland (FODSWA) and Special Olympics Eswatini facilitated and hosted a Persons with Disabilities Day Commemoration event under the theme "Amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future". During the event, residents living with disabilities engaged in different sporting and were sensitized on pertinent issues relevant to their livelihoods including road safety tips for the festive season and beyond, guidance on accessing Regional Development Funds and the Municipality's services for persons with disabilities. Approximately (70) persons with disabilities attended the event.

12.8 Environmental Health Management Services

Laboratory Services: The Municipality laboratory continued its testing activities during the reporting period, analyzing (522) samples across the following categories: water quality testing, food quality analysis, environmental monitoring (hygiene swabbing), and customer samples.

Waste Management: Council continued to provide services for the treatment of healthcare risk waste within City to over (48) healthcare facilities where a total of (5 745kg) was received and treated. On the General waste during the reporting quarter, a total of (9,282,375) kilogrammes of general waste were collected and disposed at the controlled dumpsite. (1,059,792.5) kilograms of recyclable materials was salvaged from the controlled dumpsite by the waste reclaimers. With the established Buy-Back Centre to promote circular waste economy within the city, a total of (725, 421) kg of recyclables were bought from reclaimers.

12.9 Public Education on Environmental Health Management

In an effort to impart knowledge and improve public awareness on public health and environmental management, the municipality continued to implement various initiatives which include the following:

- **Clean-up Campaigns-** the municipality managed to conduct (2) Clean-up campaigns in collaboration with one of the schools and a church within the urban area. A total of (850) kilogrammes of waste was collected during the clean-up exercise.

- **Commemoration of World Environment Day (5th June 2024):** the municipality in partnership with the other (4) Urban Local Authorities in the Manzini hosted a commemoration event of the World Environment Day under the theme *“Land Restoration, desertification and drought resilience.”*
- **Commemoration of World Food Safety Day** - the Municipality collaborated with various food outlets operating in the city in hosting the World Food Safety Day Commemoration under the theme *“Prepare for the Unexpected”*, an event held on the 7th June 2024. During the event, businesses were capacitated on good manufacturing practices and application of the requisite programmes in the food supply chain to prepare for the unexpected. The event also included the awarding of recognition certificates to food outlets upholding high standards of food safety management.
- **Commemoration of World Accreditation Day (9th June 2024):** The Municipality partnered with different stakeholders including the Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Trade (Quality Infrastructure Unit), National Laboratory Council, Eswatini Standards Authority, schools and the National Curriculum Centre (NCC) to collaborate World Accreditation Day under the theme *“Empowering Tomorrow, Shaping the Future”*. The purpose of the event was to promote adherence to international standards and best practices amongst all stakeholders offering laboratory services in the city. The event was held on the 9th June 2024 at the Millenium Park.

Waste Separation at Source Project: Council continued to spearhead the waste segregation at source project in the reporting quarter where over (690) households were visited for sensitization. A food waste diversion for composting was further initiated to support Council backyard gardens program.

Manzini City-Wide Inspections: A total of (1 039) of business were inspected since inception of the project in August 2024 were a (1 250) kg of non-fit food commodities were seized, condemned destroyed as per the requirements of the food regulations.

12.10 Social Welfare and HIV/AIDS Services

The Municipality has a social services and HIV/AIDS programme to support people from the city and even outside of the city.

Child Care Services at Social Centres: The municipality continued providing OVC feeding services in the (8) Social Centres located within the city. During the reporting period, a total number of (4,730) orphaned and vulnerable children were provided with meals. The free pre-school programme also known as the Early Childhood Care, Development and Education (ECCDE), which is provided alongside the feeding programme also continued during the quarter. Two hundred and forty-seven (247) children were part of the ECCDE programme offered in 7 social the centres. A total of one hundred and twenty-four (124) beneficiaries graduated during this period in readiness for primary school.

Condom Distribution: As one of the strategies to curb the increase of new HIV infections, the section managed to ensure widespread availability of condoms through distribution at strategic areas. A total number of seventy-two thousand five hundred and ninety-four (72 594) units were distributed during the quarter.

HIV Testing Services: The section maintained the promotion and provision of HIV testing services as another strategy of preventing the spread of the virus through social mobilization and awareness of their HIV status. This is based on the premise that people who know their HIV status are more likely to be proactive towards keeping it like that if negative and taking the necessary steps needed for further treatment if positive.

Throughout the quarter, one thousand three hundred and four (1 304) people were tested at LaMvelase Help Centre and the Filter clinic.

ART Service: Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) services were provided to (15, 317) people at the two clinics being LaMvelase Help Centre and Filter Clinic. Services provided included the prescription of ARVs for clients, treatment of opportunistic infections, CD4 count monitoring, viral load monitoring, Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Services, TB testing and Treatment as well as the management of non-communicable diseases like diabetes.

Commemoration of World AIDS Day: In line with the city's HIV/AIDS Programme, the Municipality facilitated hosting of the 2024 World AIDS Day Commemoration in partnership with AMICAALL, AHF and NERCHA under the theme **“Take the rights path: my health, my right”**. Inspired by the theme, the commemoration involved various activities targeting different segments of the city's population. These included HIV/AIDS Prevention sensitization sessions conducted at Peace Field Primary and High School, LaMvelase Help Centre, Council Filter Clinic, Council Civic Offices and Workshop where (132) people were reached. A further sensitization was conducted for female sex workers where (31) people were reached. The commemoration also involved provision of HIV Testing services total number of (10) people checked their HIV status.

Autism Centre Operations: Council continued to maintain the provision of autism and disability rehabilitative services at the Autism Centre. Services provided during the period included integrated speech and occupational therapy as well as rehabilitation services for children with physical disabilities and or neural development challenges. During the period, a total number of one hundred and sixty-one (161) clients visited the Autism centre for therapy services. From these (121) were autistic children who were provided with the integrated speech and occupational therapy services whilst forty (40) were children living with physical disabilities and or neurological disorder.

12.11 CHALLENGES

Despite the performance discussed above, it is worth mentioning that the municipality encountered a number of challenges during the reporting period as it thrived to deliver on its mandate:

- Financial Constraints
- Illegal Trading
- Illegal Dumping
- Infrastructure backlog

12.12 FUTURE PLANS

- Rehabilitation of Abattoir Facility.

- Review & Development of 2024-2030 Integrated Development Plan
- Development of Fairview Mixed-Use Commercial Centre
- Development of Manzini Mall
- Operationalization of Paid Parking System
- Re-operationalization of Satellite Bus Rank

13.0 NHLANGANO TOWN COUNCIL

13.1 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Nhlangano Town Council operates on projected budget of **E27.03 million**. The budget is realized from property taxation (both government and private property), own source of revenue and government subvention. The table below shows the budgeted estimates for the financial year 2024/2025, the actual and projected expenditure as well as the revenue collection in this financial year.

Description	Budget Estimates (2024/2025)	Actual as at June 2024 (Quarter 1)	Actual as at September 2024 (Quarter 2)	Actual as at December 2024 (Quarter 3)	Forecasted March 2025 (Quarter 4)	Variance To Budgeted %
INCOME						
Private property tax	10 527 448	4 006 770	2 217 947	2 318 799	2 400 000	104%
Government Rates	9 679 780	1 322 451	0	2 644 902	1 322 451	55%
Own source revenue	6 121 194	1 057 617	537 580	533 613	950 000	50%
General Grant	711 000	177 750	177 750	177 750	177 750	100%
TOTAL	27 039 423	5 787 817	2 933 277	5 675 064	6 738 309	78%
EXPENDITURE						
Personnel Costs	9 171 427	2 050 121	2 264 421	2 284 841	2 266 902	97%
Recurrent	9 258 432	2 222 780	2 817 335	3 231 516	1 530 000	105%
Special Expenditure	1 200 000	0	13 950	0	140 000	13%
Capital Expenditure	7 322 000	620 833	711 988	2 074 046	2 115 000	75%
TOTAL	26 951 859	4 893 734	5 807 694	7 590 403	6 051 902	90%
Surplus / Deficit	87 564	1 244 587	(2 874 417)	(1 915 339)	6867	

13.2 CAPITAL PROJECTS PRORAMME:

Name of project	Description of Project	Budget Estimate (2024/2025)	Progress made	Comments
Road Rehabilitation	Upgrading of roads to Asphalt or Concrete.	E5,701,000.00	Due to cash flow constraints, only procurement for the road design is being facilitated.	Construction will resume when financial relief is available.
High Mast Lights	Provision of two LED Highmast lights at Ward 1 and Ward 6.	E1,015,000.00	The project was publicly advertised and is currently under evaluation.	Project to begin in the last quarter of FY 2024/2025.
Procurement of Roller Double Drum	Procurement of a Roller Double Drum for pothole patching.	E350,000.00	Request for quotation (RFQ) process initiated, currently evaluating the quote (threshold for Nhlanguano is E200,000).	Roller to be procured in the last quarter of FY 2024/2025.
Design and Construction of Public Toilets	Design and construction of toilets at Plot 141/NU,	E256,000.00	Design completed. Procurement of contractor ongoing.	Located opposite Nhlanguano Government and Revenue Offices.
Street Lights & High Mast Lights	Provision of 63 solar street lights for Skonkwane and Masabasaba streets	E2,000,000.00	Publicly advertised and awarded to Ignite Electrical Contractors for E1,600,000. Project is complete as of September 2024.	Project is now under the liability period.
Plant and Equipment	Procurement of a refuse compactor truck.	E2,000,000.00	Refuse Compactor Truck has been delivered	Optimizes refuse collection within the urban boundary and also promotes a clean town

13.3 OTHER PROGRAMMES

Implementation of Performance Management System

The Council has successfully implemented the performance management system, marking a significant advancement in our operational efficiency and accountability. This system is designed to enhance the evaluation of employee performance, ensuring that goals are clearly defined and measurable. With regular feedback and structured assessments, we aim to foster a culture of continuous improvement and professional development. The implementation process involved extensive training and collaboration across departments, ensuring that all staff members are equipped to utilize the new system effectively.

Staff Retention

Out of a staff compliment of 69, the Council has successfully recruited a Town Engineer and an Assistant Town Planner during the reporting period. These positions are crucial to the Council's operational framework, ensuring effective planning and infrastructure development to meet community needs.

Food Hygiene and Safety Seminar

To ensure maximum food hygiene and safety in all establishments, the Council held a successful food hygiene and safety seminar, where food handlers and managers showed up in their numbers. Food handlers were made to understand that the practice of food hygiene not only helps businesses improve the quality of their products and services but also ensures people are safe when buying and consuming food.

Food Establishments Grading

The Council successfully conducted food grading and inspections to 84 outlets situated within the Nhlngano Urban Area. This process helps to give the consumer an idea of the condition of the food outlet they buying from. The primary goal of food grading is to ensure that consumers receive products that meet certain standards of quality and safety. The Council collaborated with Health Inspectors from the Ministry of Health to ensure a successful exercise.



A team of inspectors at work during the grading exercise.

Landscaping and Greening

The Council has successfully implemented the landscaping and greening project well in the reporting period. The Town has also done weeding and spraying along the roads and walkways to improve town aesthetics.



Landscaping above the Main Market

Waste Management

The Council through the Environmental Department engaged a Swazi owned recycling company (Lowethu Investments) that will be sorting and baling almost all kinds of waste streams produced within the town jurisdiction and beyond. Such a project will enhance in prolonging the lifespan of the dumpsite, promote local economic development through the employment of the local youth in line with sustainable development goals (SDG) #1 and subsequently play a role in keeping the town green (SDG 12.5). From November 2024 to date the company has collected over 5 tonnes of waste for recycling having employed 4 trained local youth.

Maximisation of Advertising Revenue

The Council has successfully done a survey of all advertising boards within the urban boundary; 22 boards were discovered, the Times of Eswatini dominated with 12 boards, followed by Eswatini Observer with 9. One Independent News board was identified.

13.4 BUILDING APPLICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

A total of four (4) building applications were processed by Council during the reporting quarter, with an estimated property value of E9 029 500.00 (Nine million, twenty-nine thousand five hundred) as illustrated on the table below. Building plan approval involves various statutory levels, as accordingly provided in the Building Act, 1968 and Town Planning Act, 1961. The department continues to strive to cooperate with developers to ensure compliance with provisions of the Building and Housing Act as well as Town Planning Scheme, whilst encouraging development of plots in the urban area. During this reporting quarter, two (2) building was completed with the granting of occupation certificate.

Cemetery and Landfill Identification Site

The Council has successfully identified suitable land for a new cemetery and landfill after a recommendation from The Crown Land Disposal Committee. The proposed identified area is approximately 5 hectares for the cemetery which is envisioned to have burial plots, walking paths, vehicular access, parking and support facilities (offices, a chapel, and ablutions).

Additionally, 3.5 hectares has been demarcated for a landfill that is proposed to feature an engineered cell for controlled waste disposal, administrative offices, an incinerator for waste reduction, a weighbridge for efficient waste management and a dedicated area for waste processing to minimize environmental impact. As part of the process, a comprehensive report including both the cemetery and landfill locations was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development to facilitate the subdivision process through the Surveyor Generals Office.

Maintenance of Public Structures

The Council has continued even this reporting period to maintain all public structures and road infrastructure maintenance. This was done to ensure essential services remain a top priority for the Nhlango community.

13.5 CHALLENGES

- Non-alignment of Government budget book with budgeted Government rates – Government rates stand at E9.6M and quarterly is E2.4M much in contrast with the current situation of quarterly rates of E1.32M; this creates a deficit
- Unallocated and unregistered plots under the urban area (Kayalami Township)
- Over E34 million in rates arrears – Council is currently pursuing legal proceeding for recovery of rates as per the dictates of Section 32 (2) Rating Act No.4 of 1995. The Council has also run rates awareness campaigns and promotions in trying to enhance the collection.
- Inadequate space for informal trade within Nhlango

13.6 FUTURE PLANS

- Installation Park and Open Spaces furniture to ensure
- Signing of MoU with Financial Institutions to empower Youth within the Urban Area
- Extension of boundaries for Nhlango urban area
- Implementation of parking bye-laws within the central business area parking spaces
- Development of bus rank through a PPP arrangement

14.0 PIGGS PEAK TOWN COUNCIL

14.1 Financial Performance

DESCRIPTION	2024/2025	APRIL 2024 TO 31 st DECEMBER 2024			
	Budget	Actuals	Variance E	Variance%	Rate%
Income					
Government Subvention	630,000.00	472,500.00	-157,500.00	-25%	75%
Government Rates	19,971,833.73	10,804,902.00	-9,166,931.73	-46%	54%
Private Property Rates	5,471,126.89	4,337,522.19	-1,133,604.70	-21%	79%
Other Income	2,086,776.93	1,433,153.32	-653,623.61	-32%	68%
CIP Capital Improvement	1,952,082.00	0	-1,952,082.00	-100%	0%
Total	<u>30,111,819.55</u>	<u>17,048,077.51</u>	<u>-13,063,742.04</u>	<u>-43%</u>	<u>57%</u>
Operational Expenditure					
Personnel Costs	8,841,923.11	7,477,045.60	-1,364,877.56	-15%	85%
Recurrent Expenditure	7,697,235.80	4,268,514.38	-5,101,956.56	-45%	55%
Special Recurrent	5,321,828.00	2,614,783.38	-2,707,044.62	-51%	49%
Special Capital Expenditure	556,914.17	52,900.00	-504,014.17	-91%	9%
Total Operational Expenditure	<u>22,417,900.94</u>	<u>14,413,243.36</u>	<u>8,004,657.58</u>	<u>-36%</u>	<u>64%</u>
Surplus /(Deficit)	<u>7,693,918.52</u>	<u>2,634,834.15</u>			

14.2 Capital Improvement Programs

For the 2024/25 financial year, Council has scheduled for the implementation of the street naming policy, the procurement of Council fleet, Installation of 16 Solar Street Lights and Revamping Killarney Sports Ground Grandstands.

DESCRIPTION	Budget 2024/2025	APRIL 2024 TO 31 st DECEMBER 2024	Variance E	PERFORMANCE	
		Actuals		Variance%	Rate%
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE					
Capital Improvement Programme	6,897,616.47	4,327,429.86	-4,733,901.54	-38%	62%
Grand Total Expenditure	29,315,517.41	18,740,673.22	10,574,844.19	-36%	64%
Surplus /Deficit	796,302.05	-1,692,595.71			

Progress Reports on the Implementation of Projects

Project Name	Project description / details	Budget amount	Plan of action
Rehabilitation of Grandstands at Killarney Sports Ground	Rehabilitation of grandstands at Killarney sports ground for use by the public during events	E300,000.00	Request for proposal documents will be prepared in readiness for the tendering and procurement of contractor.
Procurement of Council Fleet	Procurement of Council Fleet (2 vans)	E1,313,973.85	Tender document is being prepared in readiness for the tendering and procurement of two vans.
Installation of Solar Street Lights	The supply and installation of 16 solar streetlights along the road behind the Government Hospital.	E800,000.00	Request for proposal documents will be prepared in readiness for the tendering and procurement of contractor.

14.3 FUTURE PLANS

- Street naming exercise
- Supply and installation of 16 solar streetlights along the road behind the Government Hospital;
- Procurement of Council Fleet;
- Rehabilitation of grandstands at Killarney sports ground for use by the public during event.

15.0 SITEKI TOWN COUNCIL

15.1 Financial Performance

The activities that are meant to assist the town council to attain the vision are financed by property rates contributing 77%, government subvention 4%, user fees and charges 18.8%. The total annual budget for Local Authority is E17,175,616, including capital grant of E2,000,000 to implement budgeted projects.

DESCRIPTION	Actual Previous Year	Original Budget	To Date Budget	QTR ended 30June	QTR ended 30Sept	QTR ended 31 Dec	QTR ended 31March	ACCUMULATED ACTUAL	Variance	Variance %
INCOME										
Rates	12,027,957	11,680,687	11,680,687	4,248,802	888,173	4,057,954	2,442,308	11,637,237	-43,450	0%
Own sources revenue	1,031,148	2,864,929	2,864,929	287,159	317,710	404,617	300,000	1,309,486	-1,555,443	-54%
General grant (subvention)	630,000	630,000	630,000	157,500	157,500	157,500	157,500	630,000	0	0%
TOTAL	13,689,105	15,175,616	15,175,616	4,693,461	1,363,383	4,620,071	2,899,808	13,576,723	-1,598,893	-11%
EXPENDITURE										
Personnel	5,613,435	6,193,528	6,193,528	1,650,799	1,415,804	1,474,489	1,415,804	5,956,896	236,632	4%
Recurrent	3,672,063	7,289,340	7,289,340	1,352,840	340,809	1,708,244	450,000	4,851,893	2,437,447	33%
TOTAL	9,285,498	13,482,868	13,482,868	3,003,639	1,756,613	3,182,733	2,865,804	10,808,789	2,674,079	20%
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	4,403,607	1,692,748	1,692,748	1,689,822	-393,230	1,437,338	34,004	2,767,934	1,075,186	64%

15.2 Capital Income and expenditure

Description	Actual Previous Year	Original Budget	To Date Budget	Act. QTR ended 30 June	ACCUM ACTUAL	Variance	
	(2023/2024)	2024/2025				E	%
INCOME							
Capital Grant from Govt. (CIP)	0	2,000,000	166,658	304,596	304,596	137,938	83%
Own source funding	1,031,148	377,290	282,968	0	0	-282,968	-100%
TOTAL	1,031,148	2,377,290	1,782,968	304,596	304,596	-1,478,372	-83%
EXPENDITURE							
Special expenditure – capex	-	377,290	282,968	0	0	282,968	100%
Capital Improvement Programme	3,732,168	3,621,600	2,716,200	304,596	304,596	2,411,604	89%
TOTAL	3,732,168	3,998,890	2,999,168	304,596	304,596	2,694,572	90%
Under / (Over)	0	-1,621,600	-1,216,200		0	1,216,200	-100%

15.3 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANNED MAJOR PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Upgrading of Siteki Park: Siteki seeks to enhance urban greenery through the establishment of green parks as a fundamental aspect of achieving Sustainable Development Goal 11. By focusing on both environmental sustainability and social wellbeing, Siteki Town aims to create healthier living condition for urban inhabitants while addressing climate change effects. Therefore upgrading of Siteki Park measuring 1.2 hectares situated at the edge of the Central Business district and remains the key Open Space in Siteki. A budget of E130,000 was allocated for the upgrade which include construction of a Running Track measuring 309 meters within the park perimeter, Outdoor Gym area, Walkways, upgrading of children recreational area and landscaping. Work has commenced; progress is at 20 %.

Installation of Mini Solar Highmast Lights: A budget of E263,000 was allocated for this project which aimed to minimize crime and ensure safety of citizens on eight (8) selected prone areas within the urban boundary. Following completion of evaluation bids, intention to award has been issued as project is 100% funded by the Council.

Construction of Mtfuntini and Phinduvuke road: This is a road project comprising of two roads (2) Mtfuntini road 0. 2 km and Phinduvuke road 0.19 km situated within the Central Business District thus creating a strategic business linkage with the national road MR7. the project has been ongoing since 2023/24 financial year project and budgeted at E3,750,648.12.

15.4 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS

Public order and Nuisance Abatement Services: Council engaged services of Intelligence Security for Ranging illegal activities and Nuisance abatement services at the CBD and townships which include but not limited to illegal activities, pounding of stray animals.

Road Maintenance: Following the minimum efforts done by Council to maintain critical road sections the MHUD Mobile Unit Plant has since arrived in Siteki and re-gravelling and maintenance roads is in progress as December 2024. Ward 4 maintenance substantially complete while ward 3 is in progress. It is anticipated that works will be completed in February 2025. It is worth noting the slow progress in December which is a result of continuous rains that lasted until January making it close to impossible to work on the gravel roads.

Road Making and Signage Maintenance: General town maintenance works also includes the road signage to accommodate free flow of traffic and road marking where they were no longer visible, for public safety and to minimize accidents around the town. As part of signage, this program has been done within the third quarter.

Electrification Maintenance: The Council continue to maintain all council structures that use electricity keeping them in good standard. Maintenance of street lights in Ward 2 is in progress while the Fire and Emergency Services truck is assisting to meet the high lights. Programs are ongoing for faulty sections, however, we note that a number of Council facilities continues to be vandalised where electrical cables (copper) has been stolen.

Public Facilities Maintenance: Maintenance of Council facilities done as per status requirement to the following: Civic Centre, Public Rest rooms, Town Hall, Recreational Centre, Amical office, Depot and Pound, Soup kitchen, New market and bus rank development etc.

Landscaping: This is an ongoing programme which is for ensuring the aesthetics of the town and its cleanliness so to ensure that it is investor friendly. Council is planting trees, flora and fauna including grass cutting on road reserves and Open Spaces.

15.5 Building Applications and Developments

The formation of structures (residential, commercial etc.) within the boundaries of Siteki is approved by the Municipality; where the foremost phase of the building process is the submission of building plans. Six building applications (4 domestic buildings, 1 commercial and 1 school additions) were processed by the municipality over the reporting quarter, with an estimated property value of E19,000,000 million. The department continues to cooperate with developers to ensure compliance whilst encouraging development of plots in the Urban Area.

15.6 Capacity building programs and attendance of Significant Forums

- Siteki Town Council participated in the National Urban Forum in October 2024 and further participated in the World Urban Forum in Cairo in November 2024.
- Siteki Town Council benefited in a Funding by the United Nations department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) in partnership with the United Cities in Local Government in Tangier, Morocco in December 2024. This funding was meant for building capacity of Municipal Members by participating in a global forum themed: Educate an Africa fit for the 21st century. The capacity building workshop was on the future of governance and new mindsets, knowledge and skills. Training was also supporting Local and Regional Government Managers with the knowledge tools they need in their quest to implement Agendas 2030 and 2063.

15.7 Urban Planning, Local Economic Development and Community and Social Development

15.7.1 Urban Planning Programmes

Moyeni Township Upgrading: Councils effort to align with SDG 11, which advocates for making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Upgrading of Farm 145 from an informal settlement into a formal township has attained massive progress. The Township was named Moyeni Township and it will benefit approximately 400 EMaswati. The Council obtained a conditional approval from the Human Settlement Authority to prepare the GS, which council have already sought the services of the Surveyor General to the pegging exercise is at 96% completion. The Council is in constant engagement with the current residents of the farm and is monitoring closer for illegal new developments which may hinder the progress of the project and create hostility within the

community. The Council was also tasked with preparing a comprehensive infrastructure financing model of approximately 80 Million Emalangi. On the parallel the Council is drafting the land allocations policy which will be participatory of all key stakeholders prior to Ministerial approval.

Marketing and Branding Plan: In line with the her 2024-25 budget programmes has called for qualified consultants to assist with the preparation of marketing and branding of Siteki Town following the lapse of the current plan.

Policy Formulation: The Council reviewing and preparing policies; the process is currently at procurement stage and the tender is at evaluation stage. Council is looking forward to award this tender by the first week of February 2025.

15.7.2 Public Health and Environment

Street Cleaning and Dumpsite Clearing: This is a daily waste management program aimed at ensuring that the town is clean. Cleaning and refuse collection on-going as a daily operation in the CBD and Townships. Clearing of Dumpsite in progress and Council relies on Landfill Compactor from Ministry of Housing and Urban Development. To ensure proper waste disposal during this reporting period Council managed to partially rehabilitate the dumpsite through hiring TLB services to help clear off the waste at the dumpsite. This process is still on going however the process had delayed.

Overgrowth cleared by Casual workers: The monthly environmental inspections assisted in the identification of the increasing numbers of overgrown private properties that impose threats and hazards to the lives of residents. Council engage Casuals to clear off the overgrowth in 35 plots.

Lubombo Referral Hospital Sewer Spillage: through environment inspections it was discovered that sensitive irregularity of sewer spillage from the Lubombo Referral Hospital into Mabodweni Dam. Evidently the situation has been ongoing a lengthy period. The Lubombo Referral Hospital authorities were engaged and linked with ESwatini Water Services Corporation to eradicate the problem.

Food Outlets Inspections: Conducted random food outlets inspections in collaboration with stakeholders and continuous improvement was identified from local shops as the quantities of expired food was declining.

Elimination of Stray Dogs: In collaboration with Royal ESwatini Police Services; Council engaged in the eliminating stray dogs that pose a threat to the public, economic activity and environmental cleanliness.

15.8 Local Economic Development

Flea Market: To stimulate new local economic development initiatives and to create a conducive and enabling environment for local businesses, during this reporting period, Council conducted a flea market targeting all local small medium and large-scale businesses to showcase their products.

Youth Empowerment: In response to the lack of job opportunities and improving Local Economic Development a youth empowerment event was hosted aimed at capacitating the youth on businesses and to make them aware about available funding opportunities. In this event a potential group of youth to be helped by Council was identified. Currently these local youth members are assigned to prepare their proposals so as to help Council find out how best they can be helped towards growing their businesses.

Waste Re-claimers' Project: The following table illustrates the volumes of waste collected and sorted by waste reclaimers working at the Waste Buy back Centre. A total of 19,685 kg (Nine thousand six hundred and eighty-five) recyclable waste was collected from October to December 2024. The waste includes carton, plastic, white paper, mixed waste and chewing gum plastics.

15.9 HIV Prevention, Response and Mitigation

Breast and Cervical Cancer Awareness Campaign: The Local Authority facilitated a collaboration of partners to implement an activation on breast and cervical cancer awareness where the public had an opportunity for screening of breast and cervical cancer and referrals for treatment care. A total of 45 HIV Self-Test were distributed on the day.

World AIDS Day, Crime Prevention and 16 Days of Activism Campaign for festive season Siteki Town Council partnered with other stakeholders to engage on these activities.

Behaviour Change in-School Session: An educational session on Behavioural Change was conducted. A total of 328 female and 311 males in-school youth were reached.

Condom Distribution: A total of thirty thousand eight hundred and sixteen (30,816) male condoms were distributed. The condoms were distributed in fifteen condom outlets located in the town.

Training: A training was attended on the Inventory Management, Logistics Management Information System and Good storage practices for Laboratory Personnel. The training was hosted by the Ministry of Health where all facilities receiving stock from the Central Medical Stores were gathered to be trained on the importance of reporting and ordering stock and also on the importance of taking good care of the stock avoid stock outs and expiry of kits.

Social Centre Program: The centre was reported to be running successfully. Electricity wiring was restored following the copper theft that happened. Twenty-four (24)

beneficiaries (15 males and 9 females) accessed psycho-social support at Moyeni Social Centre in the third quarter and sixteen (16) graduated on 28 November 2024.

15.10 FUTURE PLANS

- Concluding consultations on Land Allocation policy and Development a comprehensive finance model for infrastructure at farm 145 (Moyeni Township)
- Installation of 10 Appolo Lights in pre-identified strategic areas in Siteki
- Construction of Mtfuntini and Phinduvuke Road
- Pedestrian walkways at cemetery Road
- Installation of Traffic Lights at Mntfuntini Road
- Upgrading of Siteki Park.

16.0 MATSAPHA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

16.1 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Description	Actual Previous Year (2023 / 2024)	Original Budget (2024 / 2025)	To Date Budget	Act.QTR ended-30-Jun	Act. QTR ended 30-Sep	Act.QTR ended 31-Dec	Act.QTR ended 31-Mar	Total	Variance	
Balance b/f (Audited Financial Statements)	1 912 438	14 288 334	1 293 546	1 293 546				1 293 546	-	0%
INCOME								-	-	
Rates	46 113 069	46 331 181	46 331 181	21 995 335	7 726 163	11 823 072	6 232 101	47 776 671	- 1 445 490	-3%
Own sources revenue	20 160 245	5 072 349	5 072 349	591 802	1 767 222	1 957 611	660 000	4 976 635	95 714	2%
General Grant - Subvention	1 223 100	1 223 100	1 223 100	305 775	305 775	305 775	305 775	1 223 100	-	0%
Grant in Aid		3 394 332	3 394 332		3 069 332	325 000		3 394 332	-	0%
TOTAL	69 408 852	70 309 296	57 314 508	24 186 458	12 868 492	14 411 458	7 197 876	58 664 284	9 117 363	60%
EXPENDITURE			-							
Personnel	22 783 714	23 933 212	23 933 212	6 314 983	6 314 983	6 445 066	6 445 066	25 520 098	- 1 586 886	-7%
Recurrent	28 113 949	27 897 733	27 897 733	3 246 034	5 488 047	4 561 594	12 491 027	25 786 702	2 111 031	8%
Special Expenditure - Capital		3 434 331	3 434 331	13 838	81 800	224 486	2 700 000	3 020 124	414 207	12%
Capital improvement programme	4 222 855	1 800 000	1 800 000	-		4 158 701	1 300 000	5 458 701	- 3 658 701	-203%
TOTAL	55 120 518	57 065 276	57 065 276	9 574 855	11 884 830	15 389 847	22 936 093	59 785 625	- 2 720 349	-5%
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	14 288 334	13 244 020	249 232	14 611 603	983 662	- 978 389	-15 738 217	- 1 121 341	1 370 573	550%

16.2 Capital Improvement and Maintenance (Engineering)

16.2.1 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Rates collection for 2024/2025 currently stands at 85% of the total amounts for private ratepayers. Government property rates collection is at 35%
- As of 31 March 2024, rates arrears stood at E38.0 million, with 59.7% of these arrears being from Government and the remaining 40.3% being from private ratepayers. We have successfully collected 32.2% of these outstanding arrears. Eswatini Government has made payments towards her outstanding rates during this quarter.
- We received E325, 000 from Eswatini Water Services Corporation as compensation for the rehabilitation of Ludvonga and Matalatala road damaged during maintenance of their infrastructure during the third quarter of 2024/2025.
- Council is continuing with her drive of the “Customer Information Update” campaign to ensure that messages are correctly sent to ratepayers and monthly statements are received to encourage payments of outstanding amounts.

16.3 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE (ENGINEERING)

Rehabilitation of Lusekwane Drive in Tubungu

In the year under review, Council completed the rehabilitation of Lusekwane Drive in Tubungu, Matsapha. The project was awarded to AG Thomas (Pty, Ltd) and was executed between January and April 2024. The contract price at award was E4,848,444.19 (four million, eight hundred and forty-eight thousand, four hundred and forty-four Emalangeni, nineteen cents). The project was completed in April 2024, at a total sum of E4,620,779,12 (four million, six hundred and twenty thousand, seven hundred and seventy-nine Emalangeni, twelve cents).

Rehabilitation of King Mswati III and Matalatala Streets

During the 2024/2025 financial year, entered a contract with AG Thomas (Pty) Ltd for the rehabilitation of King Mswati III and Matalatala Streets. The works will cover approximately 3.2km and will include rehabilitation of the pavement layers and a new asphalt wearing course. The drainage system along the roads and street furniture will all be upgraded.

King Mswati III Street (formerly known as King Mswati III West Avenue): This project starts at the junction with Conco Street near the Conco premises access. The street passes Smithco Building and ends where it crosses the railway line, past Logico warehouses.

Matalatala Street (formerly known as 1st Avenue): This project starts at the junction with Lomawa Street (formerly Simunye street) near the Eswatini Post Office premises access. The street passes along, Eswatini Wire, Cashbuild, new Umbuluzi Valley, EEC depot, AG Thomas Premises, Eswatini Meat Industries and ends at the railway line. This section will

also see the rehabilitation of the Ludvonga and Matalatala Streets intersection, near Eswatini Beverages. The satellite image below shows the location of the said streets.



This project is the second phase of the town's road rehabilitation programme, following the rehabilitation of Lusekwane Drive in Tubungu. The works commenced in January 2025 and is expected to be complete by the third quarter of the 2025/26 financial year. The contract amount is E31,779,789.52 (thirty-one million, seven hundred and seventy-nine thousand, seven hundred and eighty-nine Emalangeni, fifty-two cents).

16.3 FORMALISATION OF FARM 105 & REMAINDER T MATSAPHA INFORMAL SETTLEMENT

During the 2024/2025, the informal settlement upgrading program continued to be implemented, Council submitted the proposed township layout for approval by the Surveyor General. The township's general plan was approved comprising of 91 plots where 70% of the plots are brownfield, 20% greenfield plots and the remaining plots are form a powerline servitude and a conserved wetland. Council further managed to secure declaration of the Township through the Human Settlement Authority with conditions where one of the conditions was to upgrade the existing infrastructure to an acceptable standard to ensure all properties which will be allocated and disposed are accessible, Council successfully completed the provision of gravel roads, 2km in length, amounting to E550 000 in July 2024.

In the same month, the plot allocation policy developed was presented to, and approved by the Crownlands Disposal Committee. The policy was developed by a steering committee which is comprised of Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Matsapha Town Council and Community Representatives. Council also prepared plot pricing model that would be used to dispose the properties to the residents and the pricing was based on the total costs of infrastructure such as roads, sewer, stormwater drainage.

In the coming year Council aims to achieve the allocation of the properties to the residents and the disposal of any plots that may remain.

16.5 REVIEW OF MATSAPHA TOWN PLANNING SCHEME

Matsapha is currently reviewing the Matsapha Town Planning Scheme, 2019. Matsapha town is drastically urbanising, and the current town planning scheme is not keeping up with the investments and development trends of the town as a result there are increased conflicting land uses and frustrations being experienced by developers within the urban area. The new town planning scheme is aimed at addressing disaster management issues, strict infrastructure development standards and improved local economic development principles to support current needs. Council was granted approval to proceed with the review of the Town Planning scheme by the Town Planning Board and has commenced with the procurement of a suitable consultant to carry out the project. The projects are planned to commence in the last quarter of the 2024/25 financial year.

16.6 HUMAN RESOURCES

16.7 STAFF TURNOVER

In the year under review, Matsapha Town Council had a staff complement of One Hundred and Seventy (117). Council continues to maintain a competent workforce that is always ready to implement all the duties of Council as mandated by the Urban Government Act 1969.

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Executive Committee	3	1	4
Management	12	4	16
Clerical Staff	8	12	20
Labourers	66	11	77

16.8 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES

16.9 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH UNIT

16.10 MATSAPHA WIDE INSPECTION (MWI) PROJECT

In the year under review, Council implemented the Matsapha Wide Inspections (MWI) project started from the 03rd July – 01st November 2024. The primary objective of MWI was to conduct sweep inspections to determine the level of compliance with national environmental legislation and applicable requirements for Matsapha businesses.

Throughout the course of the four months, the MWI initiative inspected 817 enterprises and workplaces. Due to the absence of portable water on their property, four prohibition orders were issued. Businesses were given a specific amount of time to implement the environmental health officers'

recommendations. The overall compliance with safety, health, and regulations related to the environment increased by 2% from 74% in 2023 to 76% in 2024, according to the MWI findings. This demonstrated that business entities were putting effort to abide with the requirements that the Matsapha Town Council imposed.

16.11 INFORMAL TRADE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

In continuous support of the informal trade sector and implementation of the Informal Trade Policy, Council hosted its 11th Annual Informal Trade conference in October 2024. This platform was used to capacitate all the registered informal traders with business continuity and development skills.

On 14th December 2024, Council successfully held its fourth flea market of the year at the Matsamo Shopping Complex which boasted 83 stalls, despite rainy weather. This was in keeping with the informal trade sector's needs and the Matsapha Informal Trade policy's execution. The flea market themed "*Holiday Magic*" took place from 0600hrs to 1800hrs with stall reservations being made on a first-come, first-served basis. As the post-mortem review attested, vendors and stakeholders alike viewed the flea market an overall success.

As at December 31st, 2024, a total of 337 informal traders were registered with Matsapha Town Council. All informal traders' permits were due for renewal in January 2025. New vending applications were also accepted at certain vending areas and categories.

16.12 LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Our local producers continued in the year under review with the production of the various items produced at the landfill site. Bokashi liquid, Compost, Lettuce and Spinach Grand Total E8 848.00 plus E3 928.00. Due to vigorous marketing strategy employed by the project owners, the project realised a 73% increase in revenue when compared to last quarter's revenue. This translates to **E9 744.00** increase. This quarter's revenue stood at **E15 104.00**.

The vigorous marketing strategy implemented was a door-to-door visit to companies that deal with agricultural inputs, such as Khuba Traders, SAAB, Farmer's Solutions, TWK Agric Swaziland and Build-It. The strategy was to have the organic fertilizer, the liquid and the solid compost, displayed on the shelves of these established businesses. All companies agreed to partner with the project owners at the landfill, which will boost sales and increase the revenue generated by the project.

16.13 CHALLENGES

- **Traffic Congestion and Road Infrastructural Projects** – Due to the rapid growth of Matsapha, the town has faced the challenge of traffic congestion,

which hinders the ease of movement within the town. To resolve this challenge, Council needs E220 000 000, for the construction of the Matsapha Interchange, which is a project that will greatly assist in resolving the issue of traffic congestion in Matsapha. This project also links with the rehabilitation of Matalatala Street, Okandaba Avenue, and the construction of Orange Groove Road. In total Council needs E259,000,000 for the successful completion of these projects.

- **Landfill Airspace Extension** – The town of Matsapha has a fully-fledged landfill that services the populace of Matsapha, Ezulwini, and Malkerns, however, the landfill is nearing the end of its lifespan and therefore Council needs to conduct a Landfill Airspace Extension Project that will require E50 Million Emalangeneni to complete.
- **By-Laws Enactment** – Council is in the process of developing three By-laws that will assist in the management and regulation of development within the town and therefore seeks to assist in the adoption and passing of these By-Laws. The proposed By-Laws are the Matsapha Gated Communities By-Laws, Matsapha Parking By-Laws, Matsapha Street Trading By-Laws, and the Matsapha User Fees and Charges.

17.0 EZULWINI TOWN COUNCIL

17.1 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Description	Actual (Previous Year)(per Audited Financials)	Original Budget (current year)	Actual ended June 2024	Actual ended 30-Sep 2024	Actual Ended 31-Dec 2024	Actual ended Projected 31-March 2025	Total E	Variance E	%
INCOME									
Rates	28,862,715	32,735,286	4,620,778	9,789,628	3,330,281	2,634,000	20,374,686	12,360,600	38
Own Sources Revenue	2,340,677	5,246,478	740,332	1,122,994	1,522,182	1,265,000	4,650,508	595,970	11
General Grant	873,000	873,000	218,250	218,250	218,250	218,250	873,000	-	-
Capital Grant	0	2,354,139	-	-	-	-	-	2,354,139	100
TOTAL	32,076,392	41,208,903	5,579,360	11,130,872	5,070,713	4,117,250	25,898,194	15,310,708	37
EXPENDITURE									
Personnel	9,208,421	13,357,337	1,744,986	3,141,353	4,607,620	3,605,803	13,099,762	257,576	2
Recurrent	8,998,804	9,547,208	610,412	1,964,774	2,717,188	1,695,852	6,988,226	2,288,983	24
Special Expenditure- Recurrent	7,160,311	11,061,133	651,346	1,361,035	2,503,752	1,230,793	5,746,927	5,314,206	48
Special Expenditure - Capital	728,691	707,481	106,050	143,021	17,122	510,000	776,193	68,712	10
CIP – Funded by Council	18,833,016	4,181,604	-	-	405,696	3,405,696	3,811,392	370,213	9
CIP – Funded by GVT	-	2,354,139	-	-	-	-	-	2,354,139	100
TOTAL	44,929,243	41,208,903	3,112,794	6,610,183	10,251,379	10,448,143	30,422,499	10,786,404	26
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	6,537,737	-	2,466,566	4,520,689	-5,180,666	-6,330,893	-4,524,305	4,524,305	

17.2 PUBLIC WORKS & MAINTENANCE ACHIEVEMENTS

Conversion of HPS Streetlights to LED Streetlights: The office has converted High-Pressure Sodium (HPS) lights to Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights in Mukela Township. A total of 18 lights were converted as part of our strategic objective on cost containment. LED lights are less energy consuming when compared to the HPS lights. The department together with the Treasury will monitor power consumption costs in order to verify return on investment. This activity was completed in October 2024.

General Road and Street Light Maintenance: General maintenance work of the town's infrastructure was conducted at various Townships. These works include;

- a) High mast lighting maintenance at Ezulwini Townships.
- b) Street lighting maintenance including MR103 Road
- c) Road repair of potholes including MR103 Road.
- d) Vegetation maintenance on road reserves including MR103 Road.
- e) Cleaning of stormwater drainages in various townships including the MR103 Road.

Major Developments: The following are major developments currently on-going in town. The table below has more information on the developments.

Development	Value (E) of Development	Proposed Start – Finish date	Progress (%)
a) Eswatini Communications Commission Office Building	198 million	February 2022 – January 2024(TBC)	96.0%
b) Medisun Hospital	17.2 million	July 2021 – TBC	55.0%

- Adopt the Internet of things for public services. i.e., Building application, Public Wi-Fi hot spots.
- Systematic implementation of the Ezulwini Municipality Comprehensive Mobility Plan 2023.

17.3 TOWN PLANNING ACHIEVEMENTS

Land Use Applications: The Municipality received the following land use application during the quarter:

Type of Application	Plot Description	Proposed subdivision	Decision
1. Subdivision Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Portion 3 of Farm 861 - Plot measure one (1) hectare - The plot is under zoning Medium Density Residential (R-2) 	Proposed subdivision sizes were: Sub 1: 1452 sqm and Remainder: 8580 sqm	Not recommended for approval

Preparation of Ezulwini Town Planning Scheme

As part of the ongoing project under the Preparation of a new Ezulwini Town Planning Scheme, the Office convened three stakeholder engagement sessions: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, utility service providers and stakeholders from the different Ministries and parastatals, whose input are vital for the development of the first two Volumes of the Scheme. The third session, was dedicated to engaging with residents and property owners of Ezulwini, to gather their input. During these sessions, the consultant presented Volumes 1 and 2 of the Scheme with attendees to validate the findings in Volume 1, which was based on data collected from various stakeholders, and to introduce the draft structure plan outlined in Volume 2.

17.4 LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Office hosted a total of five (5) flea markets. These were located along the Tea-Road opposite the Crescent Shopping Centre in order to provide a platform to enhance economic activity in the informal trade sector. A total of forty-seven (47) vendors benefited from this initiative.

The Office continues to support the women's Gwacatela Nsika Cooperative that produces compost and fertilizer from food waste by providing platforms and resources to help market their products. With the current rainy season coinciding with the maize planting season, the Office offered marketing assistance to help the cooperative benefit from the increased demand for fertilizer during this period by paying for voice over advert and paying for the adverts with the Eswatini Broadcasting Information Services (EBIS 1). This marketing effort was aimed at boosting their sales, ultimately increasing their income to better support their families. Through programs such as providing economic opportunities, supporting cooperatives, and creating platforms for marketing products, the Municipality helps uplift marginalized individuals and communities, enabling them to generate income, reduce poverty, and improve their quality of life. These efforts promote sustainable development by creating pathways to self-sufficiency and social empowerment which addresses SDG 1 (No Poverty).

Outdoor Advertising: The Municipality procured and installed welcome signs, river name signs, and Christmas greetings signs as part of its broader efforts to enhance the Town's identity, functionality, and festive spirit.

17.5 MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

38 Mountain View Township: On October 2nd, 2024, the Municipality, in collaboration with Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Eswatini, officially launched the Agroecology Training and Demonstration Centre (ATDC) at Lot 38 Mountain View Township. This initiative transformed a previously vacant public open space into a space for educating the public on sustainable agricultural practices. The project illustrates the Municipality's commitment to improving urban spaces for community benefit while

contributing to global sustainability goals. The garden now serves as a model for urban gardening, showcasing practical techniques like organic farming, composting, water management, and crop diversification.

Since its launch, the garden has hosted two groups in October 2024 one being Rural Women's Assembly Representatives made up of 60 participants from 11 country chapters, including Eswatini, and the other group was made up of 32 Regent Business School students who explored sustainable urban gardening through hands-on learning from different organizations. The site is open to the public, offering opportunities to learn about sustainable farming and organic production through backyard gardening. The garden aligns with SDG 15 (Life on Land, by promoting sustainable land use, biodiversity, and soil health) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities, by creating inclusive, sustainable urban spaces).

Lot 52 Mukela Township: The Municipality is committed to transforming public open spaces (POS) into vibrant, functional areas that address the needs of local residents. As part of this effort, the office initiated a community-driven approach to ensure the development of Mukela's POS aligns with the desires and expectations of the people it serves. To gather input from residents, the office conducted a survey to understand what amenities and features would make the Mukela POS more beneficial and frequently used. Additionally, discussions were held with the ward councillor and community committee representatives to supplement survey feedback and ensure all voices were heard. From the outcome of the survey and the meeting a plan has been set out to develop the necessary facilities for the POS. These are to be procured and installed in the last quarter of the 2024/25 financial year.

GIS MANAGEMENT: The Office utilized GIS technology to enhance the accuracy and efficiency of verifying the draft Ezulwini Valuation Roll. By linking the draft roll to the town's cadastral data, GIS ensured property assessments were aligned with actual land records. This process helped identify discrepancies in property sizes, locations, and plot names, while also providing a spatial view of the properties under investigation. The use of GIS streamlined the verification process, allowing officers to quickly pinpoint errors and inconsistencies, reducing time and effort required for manual checks and improving the overall accuracy of the valuation roll.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS NIGHT: On December 20th, 2024, the Office, in collaboration with The Gables Shopping Centre, hosted a Christmas carols and candle lighting event at The Gables Shopping Centre from 7 PM to 8 PM. The event aimed to bring the community together in celebrating the festive season and fostering a sense of unity. Additionally, the Gables Shopping Centre donated E5,000 to support the National Care Points (NCPs) that the Municipality supports, and the money will go into providing essential required in the day to day running of the care points. Notwithstanding adverse weather conditions, the

attendance on the night was satisfactory and gives hope that it can become one of the key events for this period within the Municipality.

17.6 PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ACHIEVEMENTS: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Waste Collection and disposal – Council collected a total of **475,837 kg** waste from both commercial and residential establishments. Additionally, a total of **31,489 kg** was recycled waste collected for the third quarter of the financial year which accounts for **6.6%** diversion rate. This helps to continue to reduce volumes of waste that get to be disposed at the Matsapha landfill and ultimately reducing costs associated with the service and contributing to environmental resilience. A total of **3,015 kg** of health care waste was disposed for the period under review.

Monitoring of Vacant Plots with overgrown – The Office issued a public notice requesting property owners with undeveloped plots to address vegetation overgrowth on their plots within 30 days. The advertisement was published on November 26th (Tuesday). In addition, **63 properties** with vegetation overgrowth were inspected and the owners were issued a seven (7) days’ notice to comply with clearing the vegetation.

Environmental Monitoring of Construction Projects – The Office monitored construction projects in town in compliance with the Environmental Management Act. A total of three (3) projects were served with notices for non-compliance.

Waste Characterization Study – A study was conducted for the Ezulwini urban to identify organic and recyclable materials composition in the overall waste stream generated in the residential and commercial sectors. This information will be crucial in selecting the appropriate waste management technologies. The waste was sorted into 11 categories namely: organic waste, paper and cardboard, plastic dense/rigid, plastic film, metals, glass, E-waste, sanitary waste, composite products, fines, and others.

The study was conducted, using the UN-Habitat’s Waste Wise Cities Tool which suggests random sampling of 90 households for average cities i.e., 10 households from 3 survey areas – high, middle, and low-income groups or 3 different housing types 1 – individual houses, apartment blocks and low-income/slum dwellings.

The results illustrate that Organic Waste is the largest generated stream at 38% followed by Glass at 14%, Paper and Cardboard at 13%, and Plastic at 16%. Overall, there is about 45% of recyclable materials from locally generated waste (Paper and Cardboard at 13%,

Plastic dense/rigid at 7%, Plastic film at 9%, Metals at 2% and Glass at 14%). Intensification of this program will enable the Municipality to improve on the recycling figures.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Food Inspections and Health Clearance Certificates: Council conducted over **28** routine inspections for food establishments in the town and issued **23** health clearance certificates for the third quarter of the year. During these inspections a total of **4,320 kg** of expired/damaged items were ceased for condemnation.

Rabies Vaccination campaign: Council hosted a rabies campaign for pests in Ezulwini in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Veterinary Department to conduct the vaccinations. Notifications to residents on this campaign was made via social media and a total of **78 dogs and 1 cat were vaccinated.**

Food Quality Inspections: In the period review, the Office conducted food quality inspections in **six (6)** establishments to ensure food safety for the protection of the public over the festive season.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Issuing of Early Warning Messages: The Office issued early warning messages to residents and stakeholders via social media and SMS notifications on possible thunderstorms. These early warnings are a component of disaster preparedness, alerting residents to potential hazards within the urban area.

Ezulwini Schools' Disaster Risk Reduction Competition: The Office presented school uniforms for the 2025 academic year to Simiso Mamba, a learner from St. Mary's High School who won the Ezulwini Schools' Disaster Risk Reduction competition. The aim of the activity is to strengthen the collaborative relationship between the Council and the local schools in and around Ezulwini while enhancing the visibility of the Municipality's Disaster Risk Reduction Office.

17.7 SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT ACHIEVEMENTS:

Breast Cancer Awareness and Donation: EZTC employees participated in the breast cancer walk and a donation of E50, 000.00 was made towards this course. The breast cancer awareness was held to educate employees on the importance of early detection and creating a healthy supportive environment for breast cancer survivors.

SAIMSA Games Celebrations: A celebration on SAIMSA games was held to celebrate the win in Namibia that was attended by some employees.

Kwakha Indvodva Entrepreneurship Program: The entrepreneurship program that was conducted by Kwakha Indvodza in collaboration with the Municipality was a success. These program was designed to foster creativity, innovation, and resilience among participants, ultimately contributing to their personal and professional growth. This

training was attended by twenty participants who are residents of Ezulwini town and the peri-urban area.

In-School Training – Sexual Health and Mental Wellness: The Social Services division of the Municipality conducted an in-school training on sexual health and mental wellness. A total of nine pupils from Kobe Ramokgadi Advanced Learning Academy who are also residents of Ezulwini participated in this discussion. These pupils will represent Ezulwini youth in discussing issues.

Non-communicable Disease Awareness: Employees participated in the non-communicable diseases exercise conducted by the Taiwanese Technical Mission. Employees were educated on healthy eating habits.

National Care Point Support: The Municipality demonstrated remarkable support during the Neighborhood Care Points (NCP) graduation ceremony held in the peri-urban area (Nyonyane, Mvutshini, Buka and Somnjaloše). Food parcels from the Municipality were distributed to all four NCPs. Huawei in conjunction with the Municipality held a successful Christmas party for the NCP children.

World AIDS Day Commemoration: The World AIDS day was commemorated successfully. It was attended by two health care guests from AHF LaMvelase clinic and Baylor College of Medicine. The event was open to residents and employees.

17.8 CHALLENGES

- The deteriorating MR103 Road traversing through Ezulwini which needs rehabilitation, and upgrades on drainage and pavement layers.
- Outstanding gravel roads traversing through private properties not owned by Council.
- Implementation of a safe intersection along MR103 Road
- High development resulting to the need for improved drainage and road network to cater for current and future population of Ezulwini urban and peri-urban areas.
- Lack of Municipal owned land for waste management facility

17.9 FUTURE PLANS

- Improvement of road network and accessibility to Ezulwini urban area.
- Design and construction of walkways
- Installation of CCTV cameras within Ezulwini townships.
- Development of a drainage master plan for Ezulwini.
- Completion of the development of the Ezulwini Town Planning Scheme,
- Development of a comprehensive plan to resolve private roads challenges in the Town.
- Development of Tourism Plan for the Ezulwini Municipality.
- Development of Mukela Township and Mountain View public open space.
- Securing of the Handcraft Market to Council jurisdiction, to enable redevelopment of the Market.

18.0 MANKAYANE TOWN BOARD

18.1 TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Description	Original Budget 2024/2025 Current year (E)	Budget To date	Actual to Date 01/04/2024 - 30/09/2024	Performance	
				E	Rate %
INCOME					
Rates- Private	1 500 000.00	1 125 000.00	1 443 868.00	1 443 868.00	128%
Rates- Government	11 500 000.00	8 625 000.00	4 586 436.00	4 586 436.00	53%
Own sources revenue	917 000.00	687 750.00	460 035.00	460 035.00	67%
Recurrent Grant	508 500.00	381 375.00	381 375.00	381 375.00	100%
Capital grant (Yr 23/24)	3 333 333.00	3 333 333.00	3 333 333.00	3 333 333.00	100%
TOTAL	17 758 333.00	14 152 458.00	10 205 047.00	10 205 047.00	57%
EXPENDITURE					
Personnel	4 628 481.00	3 471 360.00	3 388 760.00	3 388 760.00	97%
Recurrent Expenditure	9 380 654.00	7 291 850.00	7 263 587.00	7 263 587.00	99%
Capital Improvement Program	3 333 333.00	3 333 333.00	3 333 333.00	3 333 333.00	100%
Total	17 342 468.00	14 096 543.00	13 985 680.00	13 985 680.00	99%
Surplus/(Deficit)	(415 865.00)				

Road Maintenance: Clearing of open channel side concrete drains and culverts where 5.43km drains cleaned. Chemical spraying of vegetation on road pavements, Installation of damaged road signs, un blocking of drains and Pre – shaping of all gravel and earth roads within Mankayane Urban Area.

Building Maintenance: At Mabovini Social Centre, Flea market and the dumpsite where re – painting of external walls had been accomplished, the public toilets, abattoir and market stalls whereby faulty locksets, broken doors and broken window glasses were replaced.

Installation of circuit breaker and daylight switch at the market stalls while the meter separation at the main market stalls is in progress

Street Lights/High Masts: Maintenance on all streetlights was all routine maintenance of which damaged lighting fixtures were replaced and cutting of grass and trees around the high mast.

18.2 Capital Projects:

PROJECT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	STATUS/COMMENT
Construction of D2 Bridge	Construction of portal culvert bridge at D2 road, with concrete finishes and walkway.	Construction of the bridge is 100% complete.
Construction of Titandini road next to Highway Covenant Church	Construction of 365m long Part of Titandini road next to Highway Covenant Church, with asphalt finishes, walkway and trapezoidal drains	Construction of the road is, 100% complete.



Titandini Road before construction



Completed Titandini Road

18.3 BUILDING ACT COMPLIANCE:

BUILDING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED				
PROPERTY	BUILDING	VALUE	STRUCTURE	STATUS
Plot 12	Public Facility	E961 528.00	Proposed Church Alterations	Pending
TOTAL APPLICATIONS RECEIVED				E961 528.00
BUILDING APPLICATIONS APPROVED				
Farm 491, Portion 4	Public Facility	E2 600 000.00	Proposed church	Approved
Farm 756	Commercial	E800 000.00	Proposed Alterations	Approved
Plot 267	Residential	E1 600 000.00	Proposed new residential home	Approved
Farm 492	Commercial	E850 000.00	Proposed Alterations	Approved
Plot 288	Residential	E540 000.00	New Residential	Approved
TOTAL BUILDING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED				E6 ,390 000.00

18.4 Health Services

Distribution of Prevention Commodities: The Board distributed 21 female condoms, 18 HIV self-testing kits, 8472 male condom pieces, 719 lubricants were distributed, and 34 people were offered PreP during the mobile clinics this reporting period. The female condoms continue to reflect a very low uptake when compared with the male condom pieces. These prevention commodities were received from the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), NERCHA Manzini region and the Eswatini Central Medical Stores (CMS). These commodities were distributed at 21 strategic distribution sites around town and others were distributed during one-on-one sessions.

Health and Empowerment Sessions

Adolescents - Local adolescents, most of which are Social Centre beneficiaries, attended health sessions from the Highway Covenant Tabernacle (HCT), the church also provides food on Saturdays. Topics related, were God's love for the world and loving your neighbors.

Young Mothers - The Sibusative neNqcebo project rollout was conducted on the 18 October at the FEA town church. This project aims at empowering the girls with life skills that will enhance their financial being in support for their children and some of the beneficiaries will be offered the opportunity to go back to school and the fees shall be paid by the project. 350 young mothers from within town and surrounding communities attended, as well as representatives from the funding organizations and local supporting institution representatives, Mankayane Royal Eswatini Police Service, Mankayane Public Health Unit

Grassroot Sports sessions - 113 social centre beneficiaries attended the weekly behavior change sessions facilitated by SWAAGA, these sessions were conducted during the team's training sessions. Topics covered were: Healthy communication, Healthy relationships, Consent and abuse and Early sexual debut.

Sports Tournament - The Board also supported the Sports tournament, for the local under 17 soccer and netball, the participants of these sporting activities are from the Social Centres, Mabovini scooped the gold medals in both soccer and netball.

Treatment adherence - A session on treatment adherence was conducted with the bus operators, an estimate of 120 people participated. The participants appreciated the services offered by the mobile clinic and Health Plus for men.

18.5 Local Economic Development Strengthening

The local youth have since submitted a proposal to Eswatini Environmental Authority (EEA) for a grant to secure the wetland in Mabovini next to the road to Holy Rosary for commercial purposes. The local youth intend to start a spring water bottling project.

Social Centre

The Center received several forms of assistance from NAMBOARD donated food items worth two thousand emalangen; the MTN Khemani cycling club continued to support the centres, this reporting period they donated 3 x 50kg sugar and Local residents and Mankayane Town Board staff members donated children's clothes. A total of 18 Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) beneficiaries graduated, they shall be attending formal school grade zero in 2025, the local Primary schools (Mount Hermon and Holy Rosary) are very instrumental in absorbing these children.

Conducting a mindset change training for the local youth: The aim of this training is to broaden the youths' capabilities of starting their own businesses and create jobs opportunities for others rather than expecting to be employed.

Conducting Youth Profiling base line: The Board has on numerous occasions has hosted local youth in economic empowerment trainings but the response is not satisfactory, the survey report may offer us a different version of our youth programs.

18.6 CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Employment of Key Strategic Positions: employed a Public Health and Environmental Officer, in line with our objective to improve efficiency by creating and filling key strategic positions.

Stakeholder Engagement: Held Urban October for Mankayane under SDG 11 on 21st of October 2024 and engaged youth where 21 trees were planted in town. Additionally, successful organized and held the Annual General Meeting for the Mankayane Town Board on 9th November 2024.

Health and Wellness Initiatives: Organized a Breast Cancer Awareness session and screening for employees and stakeholders on 10th October 2024. Additionally, we conducted financial wellness and counseling sessions for employees on the month of October 2024.

Community Involvement: These activities have significantly contributed to our strategic objectives, particularly in enhancing operational efficiency, building capacity, and engaging with our community and stakeholders.



Breast cancer awareness and screening session for staff and stakeholders.

18.6 CHALLENGES

- **Inadequate staff Compliment:** Mankayane Town requires a staff establishment of 42 personnel to effectively and efficiently deliver the IDP but the staff compliment for now is 37 and this result to service delivery challenges
- **Lack of employment opportunities:** lack of economic activities (industrial /factory shell) to provide a meaningful buying power of local residents to attract investment
- **Growing need to feed social centre children:** The Board depends on donors to feed three social centre beneficiaries such that at times the children do not get food
- **Lack of Office space:** Mankayane Town Board is still housed at regional government offices are the office space is not adequate considering the staff register.

18.7 FUTURE PLANS

- Construction of public toilets at Mangwaneni informal settlement
- Provision of Police Post Structure at CBD
- Street lighting
- Provision of public toilets by entrance of Mankayane Government Hospital
- Provision of an auto spares structure
- Development of Mankayane industrial site
- Formalization of Mangwaneni and Mabovini Informal Settlements
- Provision of public ablutions at Mankayane Sports ground.

19.0 HLATHIKHULU TOWN BOARD

19.1 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Description	Actual Previous Year (2023/2024)	Original Budget 2024/2025	To Date Budget	Act. QTR ended 30 JUNE	Act. QTR ended 30 SEPT	Act QTR ended 31 DEC	Act QTR ended 31 MARCH	Variance E	Variance %
Opening balance				273 606.76	7 095.89	1 877 460.61	1 026 139.88		
Rates	3 705 000.00	4 097 185.00	1 814 786.77	954 093.16	295 179.07	582 719.00	450 407.00	1 814 786.77	56%
Own sources revenue	220 000.00	230 000.00	140 553.50	19 982.00	24 947.00	28 773.50	15 744.00	140 553.00	39%
General grant	540 900.00	540 900.00	0	135 225.00	135 225.00	135 225.00	135 225.00	0	100%
Capital grant	3 000 000.00	3 000 000.00	0	0	3 333 333.33	0	0	333 333.33	111%
TOTAL	7 465 900.00	7 868 085.00	6 303 533.77	1 382 906.92	3 795 780.29	2 624 178.11	1 627 515.88		119%
EXPENDITURE									
Personnel	2 089 034.00	2 463 876.00	0	673 993.89	677 569.49	595 983.49	573 084.18	0	102%
Recurrent	2 216 900.00	2 285 012.00	0	701 817.14	1 237 250.68	797 612.24	537 012.82	0	143%
Special expenditure-recurrent	33 000.00	47 000.00	27 200.00	0	3 500.00	11 300.00	5 000.00	27 200.00	42%
Special expenditure capital	45 000.00	45 000.00	35 000.00	0	0		10 000.00	35 000.00	22%
CIP	3 000 000.00	3 000 000.00	2 506 857.50	0	0	193 142.50	300 000.00	2 506 857.50	16%
TOTAL	7 397 934.00	7 840 888.00	4 546 756.80	1 375 811.03	1 918 319.68	1 598 038.23	1 425 097.00		81%
SURPLUS				7 095.89	1 877 460.61	1 026 139.88	202 8.88		

19.2 PERFORMANCE ON ON-GOING CAPITAL PROJECTS:

- Construction of 5th Street (Complete)
- Preparation of Town Planning Scheme- Complete
- Installation of solar street lights at bus rank- to be started in the next quarter
- Water and electricity connections at three social centres- to be started in the next quarter

19.3 FUTURE PLANS

- Construction of Hlathikhulu Shopping Complex (Mall)
- Construction of Civic Centre
- Installation of solar street lights
- Rehabilitation of market

20.0 NGWENYA TOWN BOARD

The Ngwenya Town Board operates on a projected income of **20,922,361.00**, and a projected expenditure budget of **E17,527,244.00** this financial year. As at the end of the financial year it is expected that **E 14,527,244.00 will have** been spent on operations, and **E17,922,361.00** is expected to have been collected as rates and other revenue by 31 March 2025. The financial year budget is realized from property taxation, own source revenue and government grants. The Board is also expecting to receive an amount of **E 3,000,000.00** as a Government Grant for the Capital Improvement Project (CIP). The table below depicts the town's projected financial position to the end of the second quarter and the actual expenditure and revenue collection as at the reporting period:

Income	Budget Estimates 2024/2025 (E)	Actual as at 30/09/2024 (E)	Rate %
REVENUE			
Opening/ closing balances	-	350,881.21	-
Rates	16,485,331.00	6,945,458.00	42.13%
Own Source funds	936,630.00	148,343.15	15.84%
Recurrent Grant	500,400.00	250,200.00	50%
Capital Grant	3 000 000.00	3,333,333.33	111.11%
SLGP Grant	0	0	0%
TOTAL	20,922,361.00	10,778,015.69	51.51%
EXPENDITURE			
Personnel	5,280,810.00	2,565,637.79	48.58%
Recurrent	9,246,434.00	2,325,297.21	25.15%
Special Expenditure Recurrent	0	0	
Capital Improvement Programme	3 000 000.00	2,972,086.58	99.06%
SLGP expenditure	0	0	
Accruals (CIP)	-	-	-
TOTAL	17,527,244.00	7,863,021.58	44.86%

20.2 PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Alterations and Additions to The Ngwenya Town Board Office Buildings

This project was budgeted for in the 2023/24 Financial Year, and is still under implementation due to the delayed payment of CIP Funds from Government. The Board awarded Ntsika Yetfu Investments a tender amounting to **E 1 688 349.51** for the Installation of carports, paving and fencing the Ngwenya Town Board offices. The duration of the project is 3 (three) months and it is to be completed at the end of September 2024. The project is currently at 85% completion, and so far, the Board has been able to pay the Contractor a sum of E1 214 169.68, with the outstanding balance being E474 179.83.

Rehabilitation of Cluster Houses.

The project on the rehabilitation of the Ngwenya Village Cluster Houses is an ongoing project. Government donated about 26 dilapidated cluster houses to the Ngwenya Town Board. The Board is in the process of rehabilitating these houses to a habitable state, and what we are currently engaged in is:

- the re-electrification of the cluster houses found on the Remaining Extent of Lot 63,
- the renovation of house no.5 which is found on Lot 64 Ngwenya Township
- the provision of ablution facilities for the cluster houses found on Lot 64 Ngwenya Township

Re electrification of cluster house no. 24 and 25 on the Remaining Extent of Lot 63.

The Board engaged an electrical contractor for the rewiring of cluster houses on Remaining Extent of Lot 63, Ngwenya Township. The occupants of the houses have been lodging complaints to the Board about electricity issues in their houses which are owned by the Ngwenya Town Board. The Board then resolved to engage a contractor to rewire all the houses. Banner Electrical has been engaged on a labour only contract, the Board will provide material for the project. Due to financial constraints the Board is rewiring two houses during the current financial year, and the rest will be done in the subsequent years.

Renovation of House No. 5

In the 2024/25 Financial Year, the Board aims at rehabilitating House No.5 into a proper Bed- Sitter with a stand-alone toilet, kitchenette and bedroom. House No.5 has a leaking roof problem, and the Board then resolved that the entire house be renovated to a habitable state. Again, due to financial challenges, the renovation of all the houses found on Lot 64 will be done in bits and pieces in subsequent years, until they are all done.

Provision of Ablution Facilities for Cluster Houses Found on Lot 64 Ngwenya Township

In the 2023/24 financial year the Board intended to provide ablution facilities for the 12 cluster houses that had no toilets yet they were occupied, and since the CIP funds have

recently arrived, and due to the urgency of the matter at hand, the Ngwenya Town Board converted one cluster house into an ablution block to be utilized by the occupants of the cluster houses located on Remaining Extent of Lot 64, Ngwenya Township. The building was divided into two in order to accommodate ablutions for both males and females. The project amounted to E 137 748.41(One Hundred and Thirty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty-One Emalangeneni Forty-One Cents)

Improvement of Mabuya Township Recreational Facility.

The Board has a budget allocation of E 150 000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Emalangeneni) for the improvement of Mabuya Township recreational facility. The Board has engaged an individual artisan on labor only contract, and will provide material for this three - month Project. The scope of construction at the Mabuya Park includes the following:Construction of a braai area and wash trough, Installation of a jungle gym and Construction of two (2) concrete tables and seats.

Construction of Pedestrian Steps at The Ngwenya Village – Mr3 Underpass

For a long time pedestrians travelling to and from Ngwenya Village, using the MR3 underpass have been struggling due to some marshy sections of the path that they were using. The Board responded by clearing the affected footpath, and providing steps for ease of use of the path. This project was done in-house with the assistance of local labourers, and it costed about E 16 370.00. As a continuation of this project, the Board is currently in the process of constructing a footbridge across the marshy path, and this project upon completion is estimated to cost more than E400 000.00.

Production of Designs for The Ngwenya Bus Rank and Vending Shelters

The Ngwenya Town Board bought a 3000 square meters piece of land just next to the Ngwenya Boarder, and the purpose of acquiring this land was to provide a proper bus rank and vending facilities. The Board through public consultations, has been able to produce designs for the proposed bus rank and vending shelters. The process of developing the designs for this facility costed the Board about E780 000.00. This facility will accommodate about 40 vending shelters, a bus rank facility that can accommodate about 34 kombis at the same time, a small shop, space for rental to accommodate about 22 SMMEs, a curio shop, and public ablutions. Due to lack of funds, the Board will consider a public private partnership for developing this facility, or alternatively build the facility in phases.

20.3 BUILDING APPLICATIONS PROCESSED

Thirty-Three (33) Building Applications were processed during the financial year, and the total estimated construction cost for the approved building plans amounts to **E 31 946 435,00 (Thirty-One Million Nine Hundred Forty-Six Thousand Four Hundred and Thirty-Five Emalangeni)**. The table below indicates the processed building plans as follows:

Plot Number	Zoning	Proposed Development	Status
i. Lot 103, Ngwenya Village	Residential	Block work Pillars	Approved
ii. Lot 230, Sibonelo Township	Residential	4 x 1-bedroom units	Approved
iii. Lot 427, Sibonelo Township	Residential	2-bedroom house	Approved
iv. Lot 211, Sibonelo Township	Residential	3 x 1-bedroom units	Approved
v. Lot 21, Sibonelo Township	Residential	3-bedroom house	Approved
vi. Lot 286, Sibonelo Township	Residential	4 x 1-bedroom units	Approved
vii. Lot 60, Sibonelo Township	Residential	4 x 2-bedroom double story units	Approved
viii. Lot 51, Mabuya Township	Residential	Boundary wall	Approved
ix. Lot 107, Sibonelo Township	Residential	3-bedroom house	Approved
x. Portion 6 of Farm 1209	Industrial	Extension of a factory shell	Approved
xi. Lot 18, Ngwenya Township	Residential	2 - bedroom house	Approved
xii. Lot 19, Mabuya Township	Residential	Boundary wall	Approved
xiii. Lot 98, Ngwenya Township	Residential	2 - bedroom house	Approved
xiv. Rem of Farm 1209	Commercial	Boundary wall	Approved
xv. Lot 415, Sibonelo Township	Residential	Alterations to 4 x 2-bedroom houses	Approved
xvi. Lot 3, Mabuya Township	Residential	Boundary wall	Approved
xvii. Lot 78, Mabuya Township	Residential	2 x 3-bedroom double storey units	Approved
xviii. Lot 337, Sibonelo Township	Residential	3-bedroom house	Approved
xix. Lot 50, Mabuya Township	Residential	3-bedroom house	Approved
xx. Portion 35 of Farm 1209	Industrial	Additions to an office building	Denied
xxi. Lot 114, Sibonelo Township	Residential	2 x bedsitters	Approved
xxii. Lot 207, Sibonelo Township	Residential	Boundary wall	Approved

xxiii. Portion 1 of Lot 77, Sibonelo Township	Residential	3 x 1-bedroom units	Approved
xxiv. Lot 14, Mabuya Township	Residential	2-bedroom duplex	Approved
xxv. Lot 192, Sibonelo Township	Residential	3-bedroom house	Approved
xxvi. Portion 2 of Lot 63, Ngwenya Township	Commercial	9 x 1-bedroom units + 2 bedroom + salon + ablutions	Denied
xxvii. Portion 90 of Farm 1007	Agricultural/Residential	1 bedroom house	Approved
xxviii. Lot 34, Ngwenya Township	Residential	Additions & alterations to a 3-bedroom house	Approved
xxix. Lot 150, Ngwenya Township Extension 1	Residential	3-bedroom house + 1 bedroom cottage	Approved
xxx. Lot 339, Sibonelo Township	Residential	3-bedroom house + 2 x 1-bedroom units	Approved
xxxi. Lot 179, Sibonelo Township	Residential	3-bedroom double storey	Approved

20.4 SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS

During the financial year the Ngwenya Town Board received Two (2) subdivision applications as follows:

Plot Number	Zoning	Proposed Subdivisions	Status
Portion 4 of Farm 987	Agricultural use	1 subdivision and a Remainder	Approved
Portion 125 (a Portion of Portion 9) of Farm 1007	Agricultural/ Residential	3 subdivisions and a Remainder	Approved

20.5 CHALLENGES

- Newly incorporated farms demanding services and infrastructure, yet the Local Authority does not have the financial capacity to provide. There is a need for the Local Authority to upgrade three portions of gravel road leading to the following areas: Portions of Farm 1007 – about 3km; Portions of Farm 987 – about 3.2km and Road Leading to New Skom – about 3km
- The existence of Informal Settlements : New Skom and the existence of Human Settlements without Proper Infrastructure at Asakhe Township and Land Lord View
- Provision of Infrastructure at Nkhungu Township
- Provision of Infrastructure for Ngwenya Township Extension 2
- Lack of a proper clinic to service Ngwenya and Neighbouring Communities
- Lack of a High School for Ngwenya and Neighbouring Communities

20.6 FUTURE PLANS

- Designs for the Ngwenya Village – Industrial Area Link Road (Bridge Only)
- Finalization of the Street Naming Process
- Formulation of a New Integrated Development Plan inalization of Surveying of Servitude connecting Asakhe Township to the AMADI Road
- Rehabilitation of Phase 2 of the Ngwenya Village Recreational Facility
- Installation of High mast Lights at Mchalageni
- Engagement of the Residents of Nkhungu regarding the Allocation of plots
- Finalization of Terms of Reference for engaging a consultant to undertake a Performance Management System for Ngwenya

21.0 VUVULANE TOWN BOARD

21.1 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Description	Annual Budget	1st Qtr Actuals	2nd Qtr Actuals	3rd Qtr Actuals	4th Qtr Projection	Accumulated	Variance %
Financial Year	2024/2025						
Balance B/F	7,878,561.00						
Rates	32,115.00	2,208.00	-	-	27,792.00	30,000.00	93%
Government Rates	1,802,702.00	1,146,260.00	-	2,292,520.00	1,146,260.00	4,585,040.00	254%
Government Subvention	630,000.00	157,500.00	157,500.00	157,500.00	157,500.00	630,000.00	100%
Own Revenue	1,812,506.00	171,776.59	169,051.08	92,421.41	71,910.00	505,159.08	28%
CIP	6,000,000.00	-	3,333,333.33	-	3,333,333.33	6,666,666.66	111%
Total	18,155,884.00	1,477,744.59	3,659,884.41	2,542,441.41	4,736,795.33	12,416,865.74	68%
EXPENDITURE							
Personnel Costs	1,622,283.60	493,403.14	450,745.24	559,672.19	480,000.00	1,983,820.57	122%
Recurrent	2,190,219.60	383,562.05	973,845.37	676,902.77	155,904.81	2,190,215.00	100%
Special Expenditure Cap	392,000.00	-	40,515.00	8,730.00	340,755.00	390,000.00	99%
Special Expenditure Recu	329,750.00	-	34,839.36	102,549.00	191,611.64	329,000.00	100%
Capital Projects	6,000,000.00	-	-	3,330,998.44	2,539,001.56	5,870,000.00	98%
Total	10,534,253.20	876,965.19	1,499,944.97	4,678,852.40	3,707,273.01	10,763,035.57	102%

21.2 ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Vuvulane Town Board operated on a projected income of E18,155,884.00 and projected expenditure of E10,534,253.20 this financial year. We operated with a total income of E12,416,865.74 (**68%**) and total expenditure is a sum of E10,763,035.57 (**102%**) since the start of the financial year.

Construction of Civic Centre: The Board has managed to complete the civic offices project. The project is aimed at achieving the provision of offices for the Board which will then improve the delivery of service. The value of the project is E16 Million.

Signing of an Mou with Siteki Town Council: The two towns have common interest in working together for a healthy working environment, prompt service delivery and sustainable integrated economic development for our towns.

GBV Awareness Day: We successfully had GBV awareness day where 50 young men were empowered with knowledge in the face of the scourge we are faced with as a country. We empowered these men to know what GBV is, to see the signs, how to cope, how to avoid finding themselves being perpetrators and how to report GBV.

Early Childhood Care and Development Program: The Town Centre pre-school had 23 students who received free education in line with the curriculum and 9 of them graduated. We were able to provide daily meal made possible by the donations we receive from World Food Programme, Tabankulu and Vuvulane Town Board. We have ensured that the children have at least one meal a day. We were able to produce vegetables from our own garden to supplement the children's meal with nutrients. We have managed to take the children for an educational trip.

Youth Day Commemoration: Vuvulane joined the world in commemorating the youth day. Our theme for the day was youth empowerment, Unemployment continues to be a big issue in our country and community; therefore, we invited and partnered with our stakeholders who specialize in capacitating the youth. We had organisations who shared what they do in the community and any livelihood programs that can be of benefit to the youth. Mhlume inkhundla was there to present what funds and assistance is available to the youth at inkhundla level. The youth was educated about the funds which are available that can be accessed at inkhundla level as an individual and what the criteria was as well as the Rudal development fund.

THE KNBII PROJECT: had several community outreach and moonlight services, a mobile clinic with nurses was available where health services and SRH-HIV were provided to the urban population and to our key populations as well as migrants.

21.3 On- going Operations

- Construction of Guard house
- Clear-vu fencing at civic centre.
- Refurbishment of Vuvulane market.
- Development of Town Planning scheme.

- Town Planning Scheme: currently preparing Standard Bidding Document for submitting to ESPPRA for approval to advertise.
- Public Private Partnership: at the valuation stage of identifying a credible investor who can be able to invest in building a shopping complex through PPP's.
- Recruitment of Clerk to Board: at the valuation stage of procuring the services of a consultant who will be appointed for the recruitment of the Clerk to Board.

21.4 CHALLENGES

- Lack of funds to meet the ever-increasing infrastructure needs.
- Delay in the disbursement of CIP grant to towns as we still have not received the grant for this financial year.
- Delay in the process of allocation of plots in the town.
- New HIV infections tracked by the first-time initiation on ART for clients that present at the clinic mostly among adolescent girls. Condoms are not being used as their partners are not adolescent boys but it is older men.

21.5 FUTURE PLANS

- **Construction of main Vuvulane road:** This project seeks to achieve the construction of the main road linking Vuvulane to the MR24. The project will be a catalyst to economic development as it will make the town to be easily accessible as currently isolated and connected with a gravel road which is about 8km, Hence the idea of improving the road to asphalt finish. The project is estimated at E55million
- **Allocation of plots:** There is a need for the allocation of plots in Vuvulane to stimulate business desires and to improve the revenue of the towns in rates collection.
- **Youth Empowerment:** Improve youth projects like sports and youth empowerment initiatives.

22.0 LAVUMISA TOWN BOARD

22.1 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Lavumisa is one of the oldest but smallest town in Eswatini and located in the South East tip of the country in the Shiselweni region. Lavumisa is a high traffic border town linking Eswatini and Kwazulu Natal, Republic of South Africa. The town is approximately 175 kilometres from Mbabane. It is estimated that the town's night population ranges from 1,500 to 2,000. Given the high-traffic border therein, however, it is further estimated that the day-population of the town is about 3,000 people.

DESCRIPTION	2024/25 BUDGET	Budget to Date	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Actuals to date	Accumulative
Parliament Annual Report 2024/2025								
OPERATING ESTIMATES								
1. REVENUE								
Rates (Government)	6,282,340	4,711,755	3,141,170	-	3,141,170	1,570,585	7,852,925	7,852,925
Rates (Private)	736,000	368,000	276,339	107,161	148,192	130,000	661,692	661,692
Subventions)	508,500	254,250	127,125	127,125	127,125	127,125	508,500	508,500
User Fees	200,000	100,000	43,559	7,845	52,258		103,662	103,662
Rentals	138,154	69,077	18,000	44,179	18,000	69,483	149,662	149,662
Capital Projects	3,333,333	3,333,333	-	3,333,333	-	3,333,333	6,666,667	6,666,667
Total	11,223,327	8,836,415	3,606,193	3,619,643	3,486,745	5,230,526	15,943,107	15,943,107
2. OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE								
Administration and Finance	2,469,546.00	2,469,546.00	438,463.03	543,819.94	777,048	648,820	2,408,151	2,408,151
Personnel	2,843,810.00	2,843,810.00	705,206.30	516,763.57	585,114	666,764	2,473,847	2,473,847
PUBLIC WORKS	794,500.00	794,500.00	105,889.69	107,237.35	80,305	130,000	423,432	423,432
SOCIAL SERVICES	490,600.00	490,600.00	98,562.02	210,017.33	79,684	95,000	483,263	483,263
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	402,000.00	402,000.00	6,449.05	48,168.26	103,510	210,000	368,127	368,127
Office of the Cllrs	874,912.00	874,912.00	130,819.00	157,265.44	183,691	250,000	721,775	721,775
Total Expenditure	7,875,368.00	7,875,368.00	1,485,389.09	1,583,271.89	1,809,352	2,000,584	6,878,596	6,878,596
Capital Projects	3,333,333	3,333,333	-	3,333,333		3,333,333	6,666,666	6,666,666

22.2 CAPITAL PROJECTS & OPERATIONAL PROCUREMENT (WORKS & SERVICES)

Tender NO. 01 of 2023/2024 – Provision of Recruitment Services for Lavumisa Town

Clerk: The recruitment services contract of **E37, 000.00** was signed between Lavumisa Town Board and Kobla Quashie. The Consultant completed the recruitment assignment, submitted and presented the report to Lavumisa Town Board. After vetting of the candidates Lavumisa Town Board submitted the report to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development for the appointment of the substantive Town Clerk recommended.

Tender NO.02 of 2024/2026 – Provision of Security Services for Lavumisa Town Board:

The services contract of amount **E306, 000.00** was signed between Live Watch Security Services and Lavumisa Town Board. The security company is rendering the service to Town Board as per the requirements of the tender document.

Tender NO.03 of 2024/2025 – Lavumisa Sources of Supply: The Evaluation Report was submitted to Malkerns Entity Tender Board for approval. The best evaluated suppliers will be notified to prepare for the supply of the commodities / items as per the issued orders by Lavumisa Town Board.

Tender NO. 04 of 2023/2024 – Development of Lavumisa Town Planning Scheme 2023-

2033: The Evaluation Report for Technical was approved by Malkerns Entity Tender Board. Financials were opened and negotiations were done. The complete report will be submitted to the Entity Tender Board for final approval.

Tender NO. 05 of 2023/2024 – Construction of Lavumisa Civic Offices (External Works):

The Evaluation of Tender Documents was completed and the Evaluation Report was approved by Malkerns Entity Tender Board. The best evaluated tender was awarded and contract was of amount **E 724, 461.61** was signed between Lavumisa Town Board and M and Q Services (Pty) Ltd. The contractor is undertaking the works on site. The contract signed was for two (2) months.

Tender NO. 06 of 2023/2024 – Upgrading of Lavumisa Recreational Facilities (Swimming

Pool & Community Hall): The Evaluation of Tender Documents was completed and the Evaluation Report was approved by Malkerns Entity Tender Board. The best evaluated tender was awarded and contract was of amount **E808, 982.14** was signed between Lavumisa Town Board and Tee and Zee Construction Pty Ltd. The contractor is undertaking the works on site. The contract signed was for two (2) months.

TENDER NO.08 OF 2023/2024/2025 PHASE 2 AND PHASE 3 - DEVELOPMENT OF

LAVUMISA BUS RANK AND MARKET: The Consultant / Project Manager modified the drawings as per the request for the Board to suit the budget. The additional services costs were paid by the Town Board as per the quotation and invoice from Expressions Architects, the amount paid was E276, 000.00. The contract signed between Lavumisa Town Board and Expressions Architects was for the amount of E1,400,000.00 which included services designs, tender documentation, tender adjudication and construction supervision. The amount for designs (E699, 999.99) was paid and supervision is outstanding

SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF SOLAR STREETLIGHTS – TENDER NO.07 OF 2023/2024/2025: Tender documents were developed and approved by ESPPRA. The tender documents were opened in public and undergoing evaluation process.

CONSTRUCTION OF LAVUMISA SHOPPING COMPLEX TENDER NO. LAVUMISA/PPP/WKS/2021/2022/2023: The deed of donation for land was issued to Lavumisa Town Board and the public private partnership project contractual documents were submitted to Legal Advisor for advice before handing them over to the developer Silver Spoon Asset Management to start the implementation of the shopping complex.

Tender NO. 09 of 2024/2025 –Request for Proposal for Provision of External Audit Services: The tender documents were opened on the 21st January 2025 and the evaluation process is expected to last not more than Seven days which report will be tabled before the Entity Tender Board for approval before award of contract.

22.3 SOCIAL SERVICES ACHIEVEMENT

- During the reporting period (4th quarter) the program managed to distribute a total of 17 600 male condoms and 260 female condoms, the program also distributed 2 400 water-based lubricants from an average of 12 outlets, 2 individuals were also given on request.
- The program managed to partner with World Vision and conducted a GBV roadshow targeting long distance truck drivers and other people coming in and going out of the country through the Border gate. They managed to reach 23 truck drivers. They also distributed pamphlets with GBV awareness messages and posters. Recommendation; there is a need to conduct awareness campaign monthly at the Border gate and other parts of the town.
- Commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV through sports; Lavumisa Youth Sports Day (Ward Competitions and Mayor’s Cup); the town managed to host the event which was held at the main Sports ground. The youth event was graced by the presence of Councilors; Councilor Nkwanyana was the Acting Mayor on that day, the other games; Netball and Volleyball were played at the recreational facility. More than 150 youth from within the urban area attended the games. Prizes for the winning teams were Medals, each team received a ball; Soccer and Volleyball received a net each to be used by all the teams for each sport code, all the players, match officials received juice bottles with GBV messages and refreshments.
- **Cancer Awareness;** the town joined the world in the cancer awareness month October whereby the Civic center (Reception) was decorated with pink & white ribbons, messages and posters in order for the people who visit the office to get the messages.

- **Urban October;** the town participated in the Urban forum which was conducted at Royal Villus to deliberate on how to ensure sustainable development in the urban space.
- **ECCD Graduation;** The town managed to conduct ECCD graduation for the year 2024 wherein 34 children graduated from the two Social Centers (Ezibovini and Town Center). The graduation was supported by parents/guardians and Lavumisa Town Board. VIPs in the event included the town Mayor, Deputy Head Teacher in the company of three teachers from Lavumisa Primary. Lavumisa Police Station Officer and other Police Officers, Bucopho, Social Welfare (DPMO). The children were awarded certificates of achievement by the Mayor with assistance of the Deputy Head teacher.
- **Support to Community Volunteers;** The town managed to purchase Christmas hampers for the six Social Centre Volunteers amounting to E1200.00 each. The Mayor was there to handover the groceries to the Volunteers and they appreciated the Christmas hampers and the Board, they also expressed out their concerns.
- **Staff end of year party** The town managed to purchase Christmas hampers for senior officials at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and the Board. All employees received OK MM Lavumisa Christmas vouchers amounting E617.00.

22.4 LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- The market vendors at the main market managed to elect a committee of seven members to govern all operations at the market. Representatives came from both structures and the containers.
- Bokashi production is ongoing; during this reporting period the women sold 15x5kg, organic compost at E450.00. The women also have a demo-garden at Zondamavila community garden.
- Piggery construction continues and the group members are almost done.

22.5 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH.

- **Waste Management and litter control:** Residential, institutional and commercial waste collected three times weekly. Waste was collected on a daily basis around town even during holidays. The waste management company was responsible for street waste collection during the festive season ending on the 05th January 2025. The vacuum tanker evacuated a total of 68 loads from the Lavumisa Public toilet, commercial premises and residential areas.
- **Public Health and nuisance control:** Infectious waste was collected by the Ministry of Health 6 times at the Lavumisa Clinic, Lavumisa Wellness Clinic, and Lavumisa Pharmacy.

- **Licence inspections and applications for business premises:**43 business premises were inspected for routine purpose. Condemned and seized food items which were unfit for human consumption n. A total of 7 health reports were done for the purposes of licence application.
- **Food and Meat Hygiene:** Inspection was done in 4 butcheries at Lavumisa and 38 bovine and 70 porcine were inspected.
- **Public Toilet:** 2 temporary toilets were procured for local use and rentals to the residents to improve the sanitation status during events.
- **Greening and Landscaping:** A total of 28 pine trees were planted at the graveyard and 20 palm trees were planted along the main street. General maintenance was ongoing. General maintenance was ongoing. The clearing of the overgrown plots was done including the cemetery. A recreational park was set-up next to the Lavumisa Civic offices.
- **Disaster Management:** The Lavumisa Townboard management was trained by National Disaster Management Agency for a period of 3 days. The staff trained was from all the departments and were part of the Disaster Response Team for the Town. A Disaster Preparedness and Management Plan and Policy were to be formulated to operationalise the Disaster Management strategy. The Lavumisa Drought Preparedness and Response Plan was developed by the Consultant engaged by National Disaster Management Agency

23.0 MALKERNS TOWN COUNCIL

23.1 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Description	Budget Estimates (2024_2025)	Actual as at June 2024 (Quarter 1)	Actual as at September 2024 Quarter 2)	Actual as at December 2024 (Quarter 3)	Forecast as at March 2024 (Quarter 4)	Variance %
INCOME						
Private property tax	2 585 750	836 194	864 025	444 565	2 144 784	81%
Government Rates	12 610 895	3 024 274	-	6 048 548	9 072 822	72%
Own source revenue	2 425 714	745 036	759 142	901 576	2 405 754	99%
Government General Grant	520 000	130 000	130 000	130 000	390 000	75%
Government Capital grant	3 300 000	-	-	-	-	0%
Own Source Capital Fund	3 000 000	-	810 039	-	810 039	27%
TOTAL	24 442 359	4 735 505	2 563 206	7 524 689	14 823 400	60%
EXPENDITURE						
Personnel	6 011 662	1 006 051	1 174 249	1 725 569	3 905 869	64%
Recurrent	9 646 774	1 615 444	1 375 087	1 360 002	4 350 533	45%
Special Capital Expenditure	2 311 703	-	-	55 115	55 115	2.4%
Capital Expenditure	5 900 000	-	810 039	-	810 039	14%
TOTAL	23 870 140	2 621 495	3 359 375	3 140 686	9 121 556	38%

23.2 HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

Waste Management: Over the quarter under review, the department has successfully maintained and improved the aesthetics of the town, through waste management, disposing an amount of 133 736kg of waste at E41 030 at Matsapha landfill.

Shop Inspections: A total number of 23 shops; food establishments, in the town were inspected in line with Section 24 of the Public Health Act No.5 of 1969, to ensure compliance with regulations and standards. These inspections aimed to promote and improve public health; food safety and hygiene, health, and enforcement to all relevant requirements. The process typically involved several key steps that inspectors follow to assess various aspects of each shop. A total number of 3 191.53kg meat and meat products were disposed. The reasons to seize sale and removal of unwholesome food items were not limited to the following; *Expired / best before / sell by products. Dented tins, Blown containers, Ones that didn't have the expiry dates, Ones that didn't contain labelling, Damages*

Disaster Management: The Council in possession of a final draft on drought management plan through a partnership with The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) through a consultant assisted in this plan. Also, in line with warning issued by the agency on storms this season, the council formulated a contingency plan for the heavy storms. As a result, some materials for response has been procured; 3*5000L water tank to provide portable water in case water ends up polluted.

Health Reports: The Council has issued a total number of 4 positive health reports in line with Section 18 of Liquor License Act 1964. These becomes a prerequisite requirement for renewal of liquor licenses.

23.3 PLANNING AND SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT

The following applications were received and processed:

Application	Submitted	Processed	Outcome
Building applications	4	2	1 Approved
Subdivision applications	0	0	2 Previously submitted applications were approved.
Sectional Titles Applications	1	1	Applicant was requested to resubmit with correction
Special Consent	0	0	0
Rezoning	0	0	0

The identification of land for a cemetery continues to be a challenge as the land identified for consideration for purchase is privately owned and the impact of placing a cemetery next to any plot devalues the neighboring plots. We will continue looking around for land the Council can purchase for burial. A budget is set aside for same.

23.4 FUTURE PLANS

- Update the database of the informal settlements, this will include information such as whether the household belongs to a leasor or is being leased, awareness to the land ownership of the land occupied, access to basic services and mapping out of each household.
- Civic education for the purposes of making sure that the residents are aware of the scheme and how it affects the land they occupy.

23.5 SOCIAL SERVICES

The Council successfully raised awareness on Breast and Cervical Cancer, Gender Based violence. In the fulfilment of the Council's objective to increase access to equitable health. Delegates from NERCHA, One billion Rising, Eswatini Police, Ministry of Health and Eswatini Breast Cancer Network were invited to provide sensitization on communicable and other non-communicable diseases.

Early Childhood Care for Development:

The Council has successfully signed secured sponsorship for the Early Childhood Care Development Centres (ECCD). The sponsor prepares 220 warm meals for children weekdays. The Council further hosted a Christmas party for these children.



Economic Empowerment project

The Council successfully partnered with Youth Chamber of Commerce, Eswatini Small Enterprises Development Company and UNDP celebrated Global Entrepreneurship week; through an event that focused on equipping youth with essential business knowledge and providing a platform to discuss challenges faced by young people. The event attracted 50 participants.

23.6 ENGINEERING AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Below is a table showing progress made under each of the capital projects in the 2024/2025 in the quarter ended 31 December 2024.

A. ONGOING PROJECTS					
Name of project	Description of Project	Project sum /Estimate	Progress made	Comments	Plan of action
Architectural Designs of the Malkerns Town Council Civic Centre	The project involves architectural designs and cost estimates of the Malkerns Town Council Civic Centre proposed to be built in Portion 11 of farm 1270.	E 495,134.80	The Intention to Award ended on 16 December 2024. Contract to be signed in January 2025.	The winning bid was from Chambers and Associates who will do architectural designs and Ngwenya Wonfor Quantity Surveyors will do cost estimates.	In the fourth quarter we will do the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract signing, inception report, draft designs and initial estimates Procurement of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil Engineer, Environmentalist Electrical Engineer
Replacement of Solar High Mast Streetlights & Damaged	Maintenance of damaged Malayini High mast in Malayini Informal Settlements and replacement of damaged streetlights in MR27.	E 594 374.50	The progress is presently at 50%. The high mast is fully functional and the street lights are yet to be fixed.	The contractor is New Light Solar Energy & Power Systems.	In the fourth quarter we will do the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace the damaged street lights in the MR27
B. ONGOING TENDER PROCUREMENT					

Procurement of Heavy Plant &
Equipment

Name of project	Description of Project	Project sum /Estimate	Progress made	Comments	Plan of action
Procurement of Heavy Plant & Equipment	<p>The project involves the procurement of the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tractor towed 2-ton grader, • Tractor towed 8-ton trailer, • Motor vehicle. 	E 1,500 000.00	<p>The following had been done by the third quarter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bid document for trailer was 50% complete, • Grader specifications had been developed 	<p>The project will continue through the next financial year. Other tractor implements will be added which will allow the Local Authority to service its mainly unpaved roads in a timely and efficient manner.</p>	<p>In the fourth quarter the following will be done:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation of suppliers for tractor implements supply, • Invitation of motor vehicle suppliers. By the end of the quarter, all implements and the motor vehicle would have been supplied.

Maintenance: The maintenance activities carried out in the period under review includes roadside vegetation control through grass trimming covering about 17 hectares in MR18 and MR27. This improves road safety and the town aesthetics. Road maintenance in unpaved roads covered about 3km where heavy blading and light blading was performed in roads that were in a poor state. Most roads were accessible at the end of the quarter because the season had been relatively dry until the last two weeks of the quarter. Street light maintenance was done where eleven streetlights that were malfunctioning were attended to.

FUTURE PLANS

- Blading of unpaved roads
- Patching of MR18 potholes
- Replacement of MR27 street lights
- Repairs of malfunctioning high masts