

SNAPSHOT OF GARDEN ROUTE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR



Dear Garden Routers

I've been your Garden Route District Municipality (GRDM) Executive Mayor since 2016, and it has been a great honour for me. During 2016, my Council embarked on an ambitious mission to bring equity and opportunity to the region within our available resources. This gradual and incremental change has only been possible because of political will, collaboration, a clear vision, and collective understanding of where we wanted to be by 2021.

It is with pride that I reflect in this newsletter about the milestones that the GRDM Council and the administration have achieved. These are only a drop in the ocean of all the work we have done over the past five (5) years. Alongside the services and achievements of our institution, we have to acknowledge the unprecedented times we are living in - the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic has changed the way we do things. With that said, my view is that we managed to tackle each challenge and threat by turning these into opportunities by adjusting our approach accordingly.

During my tenure, we continuously and critically reflected on the goals we wanted to achieve, as well as stumbling blocks that afflicted our district over the years.

We have managed to propose a way forward by developing a Growth and Development Strategy, produced a promising Investment Prospectus, and a Recovery Plan for our region. We've also maintained a healthy financial position, with consecutive unqualified audits since we took office in 2016.

I must also boast that under my leadership, the GRDM has managed to lay a solid foundation for the incoming Council to continue to represent the interests of all who live, work and play in our region.

My style of leadership has been consistent and clear - I am a Mayor for all, not for a selected group of people. There is no denying that there is more to accomplish over the next term as the next phase of the GRDM's plans are implemented. Therefore, I trust that new office bearers will continue to do their best to make our region even more inclusive for all.

In service,
Ald. Memory Booyesen
Executive Mayor, GRDM

GRDM MAINTAINED A POSITIVE FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

The year-end bank balance was in overdraft	No
Amount of year-end bank balance (cash and cash equivalents)	R188 287 282
Creditors as a percentage of cash and cash equivalents	11%
Amount of creditors (accounts payable)	R20 106 544
Amount of current liabilities	R67 756 402
Overall, the financial position as assessed by the Auditor General	Good

Clean audit for
COVID-19
expenditure

GRDM FAIRED CONSISTENTLY WELL WITH OUR AUDIT OUTCOMES FROM 2016/17 - 2019/20



All were unqualified with findings.
This is an international measure of Good Governance.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Have a look at what we will feature inside this edition of our annual district newsletter.

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List of beneficiaries upskilled over the past five (5) years.

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Garden Route District Municipality developed an investment prospectus to attract domestic and international investment

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Garden Route District Municipality formed a ground-breaking partnership with the Garden Route Food Pantry

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Garden Route District Municipality efficiently run one of the best Roads and Transport Planning Departments in the Western Cape


GRDM MAINTAINED POLITICAL STABILITY

POLITICAL PARTY REPRESENTATION

It is no secret that the current term of Council will be remembered as a stable and cooperative Council. After all, this is required if government wants to attract investors to commit capital into the Garden Route economy.

According to the GRDM Speaker, Alderman **Barnie Groenewald**:

“The Councillors and officials displayed a cooperative attitude, willingness and determination to make this municipality the best they could. There was also no ‘them’ and ‘us’, which promoted a sense of togetherness between the new Council and the administration”.



Ald. Barnie Groenewald
GRDM Speaker

Democratic Alliance (DA)	21
African National Congress (ANC)	12
Plaaslike Besorgde Inwoners (PBI)	1
Independent Civic Organisation of South Africa (ICOSA)	1

MESSAGE FROM THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER

Change is inevitable, and if properly planned, it can be a force for good. Unplanned change is chaotic, causes fear and resentment, and takes far more effort to achieve the same results than if one had started with a plan. Since my appointment as the Municipal Manager for Garden Route District Municipality (GRDM) on 1 March 2017 and having worked in Local Government for more than a decade, it has been my plan to improve external stakeholder relations and morale of the GRDM workforce.

Soon after taking office, the mission and the vision of GRDM were revised to what it is today, and since then, all the strategies were aligned to achieve such an ambitious vision. As part of this process, we also had to change the name of this institution from Eden to Garden Route District Municipality. This change made it possible for us to market investment opportunities in the region without ambiguity aggressively. As part of positioning the region for investment opportunities, we restructured our organisational structure and established a Planning and Economic Development Directorate. This Department is responsible for driving all catalytic projects of the municipality.

This administration has done its level best to provide consistency and guidance through progressive policy interventions to ensure that good governance and financial management remain at the heart of what we do. Council has been in full support of this, subsequently approving several policies, including Gender-Based

Violence, Gender Mainstreaming, Sexual Harassment, reviewed all other financial-related policies, to name a few. The current state of GRDM, in particular its financial position, is proof that the aforementioned interventions indeed worked.

Council also mandated my administration to align itself to the employment equity targets of the Western Cape. The current Western Cape statistics per race is 48,78% Coloured, 32,84% African, 15,7% White and 1,04% other races. During 2017, when I took office, our Coloured staff component stood at 66%, African at 18%, White at 16% and Indian/Asian at 1%. In 2021 the overall race statistics are more balanced and aligned to provincial statistics, with Coloured representation at 58%, African at 28% and White at 13%, and Indian/Asian at 1%.

To address the needs of our external stakeholders, we created several platforms to promote an open government for all. We’ve improved our inter-municipal relations, improving our coordination of all seven (7) local municipalities in the Garden Route. This enabled a culture of cooperation amongst different administrations, regardless of the political parties that are in power. We held numerous summits and conferences, whereby we attracted investors, academics and influencers to provoke debate on critical issues facing our region. Central to all these interventions are our efforts to align our current services to the functions of a district municipality as set in Section 84 of the South African Local Government: Municipal Structures Act 117 of 1998.

This administration decided to revive the Skills Mecca concept born out of the devastating Knysna/Plett wildfires four years ago. The progress of establishing Garden Route as the Skills Mecca region is well in its advanced stages. We had already two Skills Mecca Summits and various role players are working around the clock to ensure the success of this project. This means that we aim to become a region where people study towards career paths where jobs are in demand. We’ve also applied for Level One Housing Accreditation, which will enable the GRDM to

offer a ground-breaking service not offered by other districts before. We aim to explore human settlements packages to cater for middle-income housing and student accommodation, to name a few, in the near future.

It would be amiss of me not to mention the impact of Covid-19 to what we have been doing over the years. COVID-19 pandemic has had a crosscutting impact on many of our immediate interventions. We’ve lost many family members, friends and colleagues, but we had no choice but to continue to plan and navigate through challenges. With careful planning we managed to upskill nearly 800 Garden Routers and invested more than R7 million in developing youth over the past five (5) years.

With the above said, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the political leadership and all political parties for playing a pivotal role in laying a foundation for the next term of the GRDM Council. I wish them well for what lies ahead. Many thanks to you all. Last but not least, I wish to extend my gratitude to all employees of GRDM for the hard work and dedication they have shown over the past years, especially during this difficult time of the pandemic.

In service,
Monde Stratu,
Municipal Manager, GRDM



BENEFICIARIES OVER THE PAST FIVE (5) YEARS

GRDM upskilled nearly 800 Garden Routers over the past five (5) years. Below find a list of some of the training programmes the region offered.

PROJECT NAME	Coloured Female	Coloured Male	Black Female	Black Male	White Male	White Female	Women	Men	Differently Abled	Youth	Beneficiaries	WHERE BENEFICIARIES ARE FROM
First Aid	58	64	31	34	-	-	97	90	1	140	187	Hessequa, Kannaland, Bitou, Oudtshoorn and George
Law Enforcement	19	32	19	20	-	-	38	52	-	63	80	Knysna, Bitou, Hessequa, Oudtshoorn, Kannaland and Oudtshoorn
Construction	3	4	-	3	-	-	2	8	1	10	10	George
Snake Awareness	55	41	18	15	1	-	57	73	-	73	130	Knysna, George and Oudtshoorn
Brush Cutter	-	17	-	6	-	-	1	22	-	16	23	Knysna, Bitou George and Oudtshoorn
Chainsaw Operator	-	15	-	6	-	-	0	22	-	17	22	George, Bitou and Knysna
Supervisor	-	4	-	2	-	-	0	6	1	6	6	George and Oudtshoorn
Access Control	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	Oudtshoorn
Disaster Risk Reduction	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	0	-	1	1	George
Assessor	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	0	-	1	1	George
Facilitator	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	0	-	1	1	George
Construction Level 2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	0	1	1	1	George
Firearm	1	10	4	-	-	-	8	7	-	6	15	Bitou
Excel for beginners	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	0	-	1	1	George
First Aid	9	8	8	-	-	-	24	1	-	25	25	George, Oudtshoorn, Bitou and Knysna
Leadership	-	1	2	3	-	-	5	1	-	6	6	George
Driver’s License	42	27	22	19	-	-	64	66	7	110	130	Mossel Bay, Knysna, Oudtshoorn, Kannaland and Bitou
A21 Bricklaying	2	-	4	3	-	-	6	3	-	9	9	Bitou and George
Footprint Africa Bricklaying	10	15	15	10	-	-	25	25	4	50	50	Knysna, Bitou and George
Cater Care	14	11	24	18	3	-	38	32	4	70	82	Entire region

ONE OF OUR TRAINING PROGRAMMES: GRDM SPENT OVER R1 MILLION ON CATER CARE TRAINING SINCE 2016

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



HOW TO BENEFIT?

This programme continues and is rolled out twice a year. In order for a person to form part of the programme, applicants need to be aged between 18 and 35 and live in the Garden Route region.

HOW MUCH WE SPENT?

Each student's life is positively impacted by this type of opportunity because participants either enter the job market or start their own business after completing the course.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Here is an overview of the beneficiaries per race and gender:
18 Black Men
24 Black Women
11 Coloured Men
14 Coloured Females
3 White Men
4 Differently abled

BRIEF BACKGROUND

Garden Route District Municipality, through its Cater Care initiative, funded R1 million for the upskilling of 82 Garden Route Youth since 2016 in the culinary arts.

Garden Route District Municipality's Communication Unit, in collaboration with George Municipality's Communicators, designed and funded a number of signs in the George Municipal area to create awareness about illegal dumping.

Statistics of EPWP workers since August 2016

Male	1086
Female	1107
Black Male	326
Black Female	400
Coloured Male	745
Coloured Female	705
White Male	15
White Female	2



GRDM UPSKILLED 130 INTERNS AND STUDENTS SINCE 2016

R7 269 344

invested on interns since 2016 by Garden Route District Municipality in collaboration with Western Cape Provincial Treasury and other Departments.

The hard work of EPWP Workers did not go unseen during the clean-up operations in the George area. The Illegal Dumping Eradication Programme was collaboratively rolled out by Garden Route District and George Municipalities.



Race	African	48
	Coloured	73
	White	9
	Indian	1
Total trained: 131 (excluding Cater Care Students)		



GRDM DEVELOPED A 20-YEAR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Garden Route District Municipality (GRDM) developed a Growth and Development Strategy, which spans over 20 years. This key document includes themes to address the Garden Route’s water security, circular economy, agriculture, tourism, local energy transition and more. The document is indeed a living strategy and also risk-driven, meaning that its implementation, monitoring, and evaluation are informed by ongoing learning and each stakeholder’s ability to adapt.

The Growth and Development Strategy is further grounded in several core-principles such as:

- people-centered;
- valuing cultures;
- preserving ecological heritage;
- approaching change collaboratively;
- recognising uncertainties of innovation and responsiveness;
- being conscious of sustainable and resilient factors directly impacting the region;
- good governance;
- being mindful of constraints; and
- open to a changing yet interconnected and interdependent region.

Cross-cutting enablers to support the implementation of the GDS, include: jobs potential, skills development, safety and well-being and energy.

Download the region’s Growth and Development Strategy here: <https://bit.ly/2PvUnh1>



GRDM HOSTED ITS FIRST-EVER GREEN ENERGY SUMMIT

GRDM hosted a groundbreaking Green Energy Summit on 11 and 12 April 2018.

The summit was hosted to unpack potential areas of alternative energy opportunities, which were instrumental, collaborative, partnership-driven to create a clean and sustainable environment. Following the summit, a Green Energy Forum was established where green energy opportunities are continuously being discussed.

The goals of the forum that was established after the summit, include using green energy to drive employment creation and bring about sustainable growth to the Garden Route.

“Providing an overview of the National, Provincial and Regional perspectives regarding Green Energy opportunities within the Garden Route District.”



COME AND INVEST - THE GARDEN ROUTE DISTRICT IS INVESTMENT-READY



On Friday, 22 January 2021 the Garden Route Investment Prospectus was adopted by the GRDM Council during an Ordinary Council meeting. This investment guide is the official regional publication which highlights many of the investment opportunities for the region. According to Mr Lusanda Menze, GRDM Executive Manager for Planning and Economic Development, “the prospectus was developed and compiled during 2020 financial year and contains regional catalytic investment opportunities of all seven local municipalities, as well as opportunities relating to the GRDM”.

The overarching objectives of this prospectus are to attract national and international investors to the Garden Route by:

- displaying the vast range of investment opportunities available in the region;
- providing insights into the region’s investment friendly climate; and
- not only attracting new investments but also to expand existing investments in the Garden Route.

Local municipalities, business chambers, government agencies, private sector stakeholders amongst others, were consulted in the process of compiling the document and identifying the most promising investment opportunities. WESGRO, the Western Cape’s Tourism, Trade and Investment Promotion Agency, remains a partner in the roll-out of the process to attract investment and will work alongside stakeholders to promote the region’s opportunities.

The high-quality print catalogue is available digitally. A website has also been developed and is open for the public to visit at

invest.gardenroute.gov.za

GRDM SUPPORTS THE KLEIN KAROO EXPORT AGRI-HUB TO CREATE A UNIQUE RURAL ECONOMY

This partnership seeks to develop the Klein Karoo economy, to create a sustainable environment and jobs – some of the important focus areas for the GRDM. The Municipality wants to form part of efforts to turn around the high unemployment rate of Kannaland communities.

This landmark agreement will see that high impact pomegranate farms in the Klein Karoo get off the ground. Council supports the drive to promote economic growth through a co-ordinated regional approach and a partnership with the agricultural sector.

If successful, the 1% pomegranate export market held by South Africa will be drastically expanded. According to Monde Stratu, GRDM Municipal Manager, the plan is to meet the demand for pomegranates during off-seasons to other parts of the world and the Klein Karoo Export Hub aims to export at least 50% of all pomegranate from this hub to other parts of the world.



Alderman Memory Booysen, GRDM Executive Mayor (middle), with two of the ladies working at the Celebration packhouse, Lewonia April (left) and Andrew-leen Jacobs (right).

SKILLS MECCA TO BECOME CENTRAL TO JOB AND SKILLS ALIGNMENT IN THE GARDEN ROUTE

South Africans have almost become immune to bad news as day to day survival remains for many the single most important priority, especially with the arrival of COVID 19 and the world of Lockdown. Many of us would probably not even realised that on 1 June 2021, Statistics South Africa (STATS SA) released the first quarter of 2021 Labour Force survey that shows the official national unemployment stands at 32,6%. This is the highest unemployment rate since the start of the Labour Force survey in 2008. Although the Western Cape is somewhat better off at 23,7%, the smaller percentage makes no difference to those still unemployed and without a job.

Turning such a catastrophic scenario around in a long term sustainable manner is only possible through targeted economic growth and development. This is why the Garden Route District Municipality (GRDM) developed 20-year Growth and Development Strategy. A well-designed strategy requires a solid foundation with many cross-cutting enablers, one of which is skills development.

“ A critical question then arises: What are the skills requirements and challenges that constrain this priority area?

The GRDM and its relevant stakeholders have ramped up efforts to roll out the Garden Route Skills Mecca (GRSM). A dedicated GRSM Coordinator, Dr Florus Prinsloo, has subsequently been appointed by the GRDM. Dr Prinsloo has already established an

internal task team, as well as an external stakeholder forum. An implementation plan for the Skills Mecca have been finalised and submitted to the Management of GRDM, the Municipal Managers Forum of the District (MMF) and a Council workshop today for further deliberations and input in the month of June. The next step is to develop a website where residents of the Garden Route can access up to date information on the GRSM.

Another essential part of the GRSM concept is establishing a clear link between skills development and jobs, which will only be possible by the GRSM team working closely with Local Economic Development (LED) Units at each municipality in the Garden Route. This approach will help to inform decisions by utilising demand-based methods toward skills development. This means that economic demand would need to be linked to skills development projects and programmes. This will result in people studying towards careers where there are jobs vacant.

“ A partnership-based approach is the only way that such an ambitious process will succeed.

At the moment, a pressing and challenging risk faced is the lack of funding available for skills development. Creating partnerships between all the relevant public and private sector is vital to the success of this programme. However, the GRDM is engaging all economic levels to try and source funding for this innovative approach to skills development and job creation.



GARDEN ROUTE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY FORMED A GROUND-BREAKING PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GARDEN ROUTE FOOD PANTRY



Alderman Memory Booyesen, Executive Mayor for GRDM (left) and MEC for Human Settlements, Minister Tertuis Simmers (right) cuts a ribbon to signify the opening of the GRFP.



Officially launched on 19 February 2021, the Garden Route Food Pantry (GRFP) is now supported by Garden Route District Municipality and local Municipalities in the district. The GRFP exists to alleviate hunger.

Executive Mayor, Alderman Memory Booyesen, said: “We’re leading by example and this initiative is exactly what we need for this district. The partnership between us, our local municipalities and the GRFP is a success because it is a collaborative approach to alleviating hunger”.

Do you run a feeding centre?

If your answer is YES, please register with the Garden Route Food Pantry for accessing possible food supplies.

REGISTER HERE: <https://buff.ly/2PU3s3k>
FOOD SUPPLIERS & DONORS: <https://buff.ly/2Rp1wAj>
FRIENDS OF THE FOOD PANTRY: <https://buff.ly/33nIU7j>

For more information, contact Carl Van Blerk, carl@echo.org.za

“ Can I get assistance?

As long as you are feeding a group of people, more than just your family - then you can apply for assistance! Soup Kitchens, Playschools, Aftercare Centres and Churches, all form part of the Garden Route Food Pantry’s list of beneficiaries.

“ Where is help offered?

The Garden Route Food Pantry covers the entire Garden Route District Municipality’s jurisdiction.

The Garden Route District includes municipal areas known as Hessequa, Mossel Bay, George, Knysna, Bitou, Greater Oudtshoorn and Kannaland.

“ How can you help?

Invest in your own future by investing in your community. Help the Garden Route Food Pantry to reach its goal of 500 Friends of the Pantry by committing to just R100 a month towards food security.

Visit www.echo.org.za for details!

GRDM ESTABLISHED THE FIRST COVID-19 DISTRICT COMMAND CENTRE IN THE WESTERN CAPE



GRDM, on 19 March 2020, established a COVID-19 Multi-Agency Command Centre (MACC) at its head office in George. The MACC follows Western Cape Government’s call on all districts to do the same to ensure that the various clusters share what is happening closer to the grassroots level. Clusters were categorised into the following stakeholder groups: Transport, Social Services and Education, Health, Safety and Security; and Communications.

“We are one of the first Districts to act pro-actively in ensuring that our clusters are up-and-running,” said Cllr Memory Booysen, Executive Mayor of GRDM.



Head of Disaster Management at GRDM, Mr Gerhard Otto, interviewed by the South African Broadcasting Commission (SABC) about COVID-19 infections in the Garden Route.

GRDM SPENT R2.6 MILLION ON CLEARING OF ILLEGAL DUMPING IN GEORGE

GRDM, in collaboration with George Municipality, rolled out a campaign to reduce illegal dumping that started in 2020. This campaign was preceded by a Memorandum of Agreement between GRDM and George Municipality.

The initial campaign mainly focused on Themba lethu and Pacaltsdorp - areas identified by the GRDM Command Council as COVID-19 hotspots during the height of the first and second waves of the pandemic.

The plan is for the GRDM to assist other local municipalities in the near future to reduce illegal dumping taking place in their areas.



Illegal dumping and littering is an ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

All contraventions of environmental legislation constitute a criminal offense. Environmental crimes include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Environmental pollution;
- Criminal activities relating to damaging of natural resources and habitats;
- Illegal disposal, handling and management of waste;
- Damaging and destroying natural resources, habitats and biodiversity;
- Criminal activities associated with endangered and indigenous species of fauna and flora; and
- Harming the health of humans by causing a range of diseases.

GARDEN ROUTE REBUILD INITIATIVE OF 2017 WAS DRIVEN BY GRDM



The following work streams were established, who spearheaded projects relating to: **Humanitarian Assistance; Reconstruction; Environmental management; Business Support; Infrastructure Rehabilitation; Funding and Resourcing; and Skills Development.**

The 2017 Knysna and Plettenberg Bay fires were some of the most devastating ever experienced in South Africa. Declared as a Provincial Disaster, it has been really heartening to see how people and organisations pull together – or “inspan” as we say in South Africa – to address the many post -fire challenges.



As an initial response to winter rains that were expected soon after the wildfires, the rebuild initiative pro-actively addressed mudslides, slippage and erosion control on steep slopes. Roleplayers managed to stabilise the burn scar to keep roads open and avoid risk to homeowners adjoining and on the slopes.

The Garden Route Rebuild initiative is a partnership between three Garden Route Municipalities (Garden Route District, Knysna and Bitou), Provincial and National government, Municipal Disaster Management Centres, state owned enterprises, community members, and private sector donors. It was thus formed to be a multi-disciplinary, intergovernmental and civil society platform to rebuild, be innovative in approach and build back better.

EHPs WORK TIRELESSLY IN RESPONDING TO COVID-19 CASES

GRDM CONTINUES DISINFECTING PUBLIC SPACES

GRDM, since 2020, pro-actively rolled out a regional-wide disinfection programme to various informal settlements and public areas to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Firefighters from the GRDM have been on the frontline to protect communities during the process.

As the pandemic spread and more people became infected, the GRDM disinfected additional areas upon request of business too.

GRDM urges the public to continue to commit to safer behaviours- wear your mask, wash your hands regularly and keep your social distance.



Environmental Health Practitioners (EHP) are tasked to perform their duties in line with the 9 Key Performance Areas of their profession, including food safety, water quality monitoring, and health surveillance of premises, just to name a few. For the past year and a half, the surveillance and prevention of communicable diseases and disposal of the dead has dominated the lives of the EHPs. They’ve been actively involved in COVID-19 case

investigation and, most of the time, conducting home visits to ensure that infected people have the proper information to protect themselves. Active contact tracing continues in an attempt to prevent the spread of the virus.

To the EHPs out there! Keep up the dedication to our profession.



CURRENT GARDEN ROUTE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY PROJECTS & PROGRAMMES

Fresh Produce Market to support and provide for small/medium scale farmers for their produce to reach other markets.	Kleinkrantz Development to boost job creation and reduce unemployment.	Transfer of properties to and from Local Municipalities in the region to ensure efficient use of assets.	Garden Route Investment Prospectus, investment website and marketing of investment opportunities.
A 20-year Growth and Development Strategy to address water security, circular economy, resilient agriculture, sustainable tourism, sustainable local energy transition and building a connected economy, amongst others.		Invasive Alien Vegetation Clearing of all properties owned by the GRDM.	Klein Karoo Export Agri-Hub in Klein Karoo. First phase is the water study that involves the drilling of boreholes.
Enhanced Corporate Branding of GRDM, new tourism and corporate websites developed.	Establishment of Garden Route Film office (11 Films & 9 Series’ shot) and development of a film policy framework.	COVID-19 multi-disciplinary task team operations to coordinate the region’s response to the pandemic.	Standard Operating Procedures for Great Brak, Klein Brak and Swartvlei Estuaries.
Regional Tourism Marketing and Development Strategy Developed.	Garden Route Economic Recovery Plan Developed to assist the Garden Route economy to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.	Municipal Electricity Master Plan (MEMP) - German Energy Programme Phase 3 (SAGEN-3).	District Development Agency feasibility study completed, operation business plan also completed. In the process of registering and capitalising the entity.
Slangrivier and Friemersheim Road upgrades aimed at boosting access and promoting the local economy.	Garden Route Development Partnership established to facilitate partnering between public and private sector for development implementation.	Skills Mecca to ensure a demand-based approach toward skills development in the Garden Route.	Regional Industrial Park - an area zoned and planned for the purpose of industrial development.
Water Services Authority (WSA) application to register the Garden Route District Municipality as a WSA Authority and promoting a water secure Region.	Garden Route Food Pantry partnership to alleviate hunger in the Garden Route.	Waste minimisation, characterisation, eradication of illegal dumping.	Drought task team for Kannaland
Regional Landfill Facility to accommodate domestic waste and hazardous waste. Possibly explore the waste economic opportunities.	Human Settlements Level 1 Accreditation, Develop GAP, FLISP Housing/ Social Housing	Corporate Services COVID-19 plan that is internally and externally focused at reducing COVID-19 infections.	Ongoing COVID-19 screening and safety measures during pandemic.
Western Cape Honeybush lease agreement (100% Black Owned farm) in De Hoek (Oudtshoorn).	Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise Support and Development Programmes aimed and revitalizing township economy and boost enterprise development.	DEFF and Government of Flanders Project.	The GRDM Council is has gone paperless.
		Continuous re-gravel, reseal and upkeep of roads in the Garden Route region on behalf of the Western Cape Government.	Trend-setters in firefighting in South Africa and abroad. Proof of this is the municipality winning the toughest firefighter awards, amongst others.
Municipal Health By-Law & Waste Management By-Law.	Long-term financial sustainability plan for the GRDM.	Faired consistently well by winning various Greenest District Municipality awards - water management, conservation, air quality management, coastal management, etc.	Home Composting Project to collect data in order for local municipal councils to roll out similar projects in their municipal areas.
New GRDM Fire Station in Mossel Bay.	GRDM installed video conferencing facilities at its offices adapting to new norm and promoting ease of doing business.		

FUTURE INTERVENTIONS BY GARDEN ROUTE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

Affordable and accessible integrated transport system to provide linkages across municipal boundaries to ensure that the regional access is resilient.	Regional Sludge to Energy Project to address the issue of sludge and energy. Once operational, it will be able to convert sludge into energy (proposed site in George).
Comprehensive new construction strategy to increase the number of off-campus housing beds by constructing 1000 three-bedroom residential apartments, recreational facilities, etc.	Fire Services Training Academy for the Garden Route.
Brakfontein Emerging Farmers Project in collaboration with the Provincial Department of Agriculture	Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise Development geared specifically towards Kannaland beneficiaries.
The Western Cape Province have already embarked on a Broadband Project with the objective to connect most of the Provincial buildings in the Western Cape, it will be further rolled out to include municipalities.	Interconnect project between municipalities for Wi-Fi and broadband.
Package suitable land parcels for affordable housing in four local municipal areas within the Garden Route District Municipality’s jurisdiction.	Assist local municipalities to unblock historic title deed issues.
Economic Development textile training in the Garden Route.	District Craft and Culture guide that showcases a variety of arts, crafts, community projects, as well as township tours and programmes in the Garden Route. This aims to promote and market the unique value proposition of the region.
Establishment of a Garden Route business centre to provide a platform for small business services and assistance.	Calitzdorp Spa & De Hoek Solar Projects which will help the resorts to reduce expenditure by producing clean and pure energy from the sun.
District Bulk Water Master Plan to investigate short-, medium- and long-term infrastructure developments like integration of water and waste water schemes and long-term future planning, alternative technology and optimisation of future interventions.	Improvement of social infrastructure, community parks, etc.

GOOD GOVERNANCE SUMMIT HOSTED BY THE GRDM

The Garden Route District Municipality, in partnership with the South African Local Government Association, hosted a Good Governance Summit on 13-14 June 2019 in George.

The main objectives of the summit were to:

- Empower councillors and administration in conducting oversight and strengthening their understanding about accountability through the implementation of effective governance structures;
- Enhance public participation processes through effective good governance structures and new innovations to eliminate or minimize service delivery protests;
- Ways in which to protect municipalities from interference by external stakeholders;
- Advocate and improve ethics and ethical conduct within the municipal leadership space; and
- Provide insights into how the cost of corruption in parts of the country has impacted service delivery and poor governance.

“

Good governance has eight (8) major characteristics. It is participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive and follows the rule of law. It assures that corruption is minimized, the views of minorities are taken into account and that the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision-making. It is also responsive to the present and future needs of society.

Source: <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/good-governance.pdf>

Alderman Memory Booysen, GRDM Executive Mayor addressing stakeholders during the GRDM’s first-ever Good Governance Summit.



WE EFFICIENTLY RUN ONE OF THE BEST ROADS AND TRANSPORT PLANNING SERVICE DEPARTMENTS IN THE WESTERN CAPE

R846 944 825
spent on roads infrastructure since 2016.

Financial Year	Total Spent
2016/2017	R135 525 887,74
2017/2018	R154 833 254,06
2018/2019	R200 782 966,61
2019/2020	R188 261 621,14
2020/2021	R167 541 095,69 *subject to change



Western Cape Government

One of the major highlights for Garden Route District Municipality (GRDM) was the construction of the Friemersheim project, which was successfully completed in November 2019. This was a 3-year project that had a significant impact on the community, primarily because of 70 jobs that were created. This project was such a big success because the GRDM continuously engaged with community members from Friemersheim and made them part of the project.

Before and during the project, skills development of community members included wire maintenance, snake handling, supervisor training and road construction.



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The Garden Route District Municipality Road Agency maintains approximately 6 105 km of Western Cape Provincial roads within the Garden Route district. Around ± 5 700 km of these are gravel roads. Trunk roads comprise ±680 km of surfaced roads across the Garden Route district.



EMERGENCY NUMBERS

FIRE SERVICES 044 805 5071

Bitou/Plett: 044 501 3066
George: 044 801 6300
Hessequa: 028 713 8073
Kannaland: 028 551 1023
Knysna: 044 302 6348
Mossel Bay: 044 606 5031/2
Oudtshoorn: 044 272 2221

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Garden Route District Municipality
Gerhard Otto (044 803 1435 / 083 630 2602)

Overberg District Municipality
Reinard Geldenhuys (028 425 1157 / 083 273 8234)

Central Karoo District Municipality
Niel Oerson (082 925 7953 / 023 449 1000)

West Coast District Municipality
Franquin Petersen (022 433 2380 / 082 759 4055)

Cape Winelands District Municipality
Shaun Minnies (082 779 9823)

Provincial Disaster Management Centre
Colin Denier (082 500 6770)

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GARDEN ROUTE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE

The centre, which forms part of the Garden Route District Municipality’s Department Community Services, is equipped with joint operational command and tactical decision areas. In order to stay abreast with regional emergency-related activities, a 24/7 call centre has been established adjacent to the Disaster Management Centre (DMC). The 24/7 call centre is operated in conjunction with provincial Emergency and Medical Services (EMS) and renders an emergency call taking and dispatch platform servicing the district as a whole. In addition to the EMS call taking staff the Garden Route DM call centre is staffed with four permanently employed operators as well as two call centre reservists.