

JOZINI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

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MAYOR
Cllr D P MABIKA



DEPUTY MAYOR
Cllr S MATHENJWA



SPEAKER
Cllr L GUMBI

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

It is a remarkable achievement that South Africa celebrates 20 years of freedom and democracy. However, the people of Jozini had not been experiencing the full benefits of this until the current leadership took over during 2011.

Thus far, we have been able to increase provisions for housing as well as electricity for the community. All municipal infrastructure, including roads and halls, has been renovated and maintained. Refuse removal is one of our priorities, as well as the development and implementation of a public participation framework. Complaint management systems have been set up, our ward committees are functioning effectively, and our community development workers (CDWs) programme is flourishing. Revenue enhancement, credit control, and a cash-flow management framework are taken care of, even though we are still challenged by not having our own land as a municipality.

We have reached a very crucial milestone by receiving an unqualified audit opinion, 2012/13, for the first time, and we have so far managed to mobilise funding to implement LED projects and attract external investors.

VISION

A municipality with sustainable service for all, thriving socio-economic development and good governance.

MISSION

- To strengthen democracy, public participation and stakeholder management
- To manage financial resources of the Municipality efficiently, effectively and economically
- To grow economy of the bedrock of agriculture and tourism by creating conducive environment for investment.

VALUES

- Integrity
- Commitment
- Professionalism
- Patriotism

COMMITMENT

We have turned the tide against most public servants' sins by taking action to overcome, among other things:

- Underspending
- Culture of impunity
- Sense of urgency
- Theft
- Substandard performance.

This has resulted in, among other things, Interim Distress Relief Initiatives. The Municipality, recognising the distress of poor families, embarked on the following initiatives as interim relief measures:

1. Active participation in operation Sukuma Sakhe, whereby the Mayor mobilised social partners to:

- build houses for orphans
- distribute food parcels
- supply school uniforms and equipment.

2. Job Expansion Initiative

In this programme, we recruited 200 more contract workers from each ward in addition to the 98 that we rotate annually, with a budget of R2 million funded from operating revenue. Women's empowerment has also been taken care of, with about 21 Women's Cooperatives having received a number of job opportunities, including the renovation of community halls, crèches, community toilets and sports fields.

COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES OF THE MUNICIPALITY

Tourism is the Key Economic Sector

Lake Jozini, as the dam is now called, has become popular as a tiger fishing destination, and because the dam borders with the Pongola Nature and Game Reserve, you can view wildlife from your boat while fireflies light up the early evening shoreline, transforming the water into an incandescent glow of fairy lights. The main attraction in this area is the return of the elephant, though there are also a vast number of other game to be viewed, including: buffalo, wildebeest, giraffe, zebra, kudu, bushbuck, duiker, steenbok, hyena, cheetah, wild dog, cerval cat, warthog, and even the occasional sighting of leopard that roam the Lebombo Mountains.

Good Climate

Jozini Municipality has one of the best climatic conditions in KwaZulu-Natal, and South Africa. This includes the best sunshine (which is conducive for renewable energy generation); weather conditions for good agricultural activity. It is one of a few areas where you can grow crops year round. It also provides leverage for tourism development.

The area provides agriculture, drinking water for animals, and is a catalyst for urban development and economic growth. It is also a source of renewable energy for sustainable energy supply to uMkhanyakude District's economy.

Magnificent Jozini Bridge and Dam

Jozini Dam is the third-largest dam in South Africa. The Jozini Dam was originally built to irrigate over 80 000ha of farmland on the Makatini flats, supporting products such as sugar cane, cotton, maize and various subtropical fruits. It is the best tiger fishing destination in South Africa, with tiger fish of 5-10kg being caught regularly these days now that the fish population in the Jozini Dam is well established.

Strategic Location as a Border Post

Jozini Municipality borders two countries that are important to its economic growth: Swaziland and Mozambique. This location is important in terms of major infrastructure and economic development projects and programmes the two countries have embarked upon, in close proximity to our border.

The Mozambique government and other SADC countries (Botswana, Swaziland, Zimbabwe and South Africa) have agreed to build one of the largest ports 30km from Kosi Bay, including an urban expansion. This border area is dominated by strategic natural heritage projects such as the Ndumo Game Reserve and Tembe Elephant Park, Kosi Bay, and other similar natural resources.

Agriculture Potential

Jozini Municipality has all the necessary ingredients for massive and diverse agricultural practice, given the climate, soil types and conditions, water availability, and stable weather throughout the year. It is the only area in the whole district in which two to three crop cycles can be harvested.

Lebombo Mountain Range

The Lebombo Mountain Range is an important natural heritage feature of the Municipality. Historians have recently confirmed that the geological formation starts somewhere around Hluhluwe and ends somewhere in Turkey (Europe). This mountain range is contrasted by uMhlabuyalingana (meaning 'a widespread, flat area'), starting at the foot of the Lebombo Mountain Range and extending into the ocean. This terrain provides for diverse agricultural practice, given the different weather patterns found within short distances.

Lavumisa and Ponta do Ouro Border Posts (and, possibly, Cecil Mack Pass)

Lavumisa and Ponta do Ouro border posts are the most strategic borders of Swaziland and Mozambique. It is through these two border posts that millions of people and millions of tonnes of cargo move between the three countries. They link these countries to South Africa's premier ports at Richards Bay and Durban Harbours.

Cultural Heritage

Jozini is one of the richest areas in KwaZulu-Natal in terms of cultural heritage. Key cultural heritage features include:

- Hlathikulu indigenous forest in Jozini (Kwa-Nyawo Traditional Council)
- Late Inkosi Dingane's grave in Hlathikulu Forest
- His Majesty, King Goodwill Zwelithini's Palace in Emachobeni, Ingwavuma.

N2, R22 and R66 National Roads

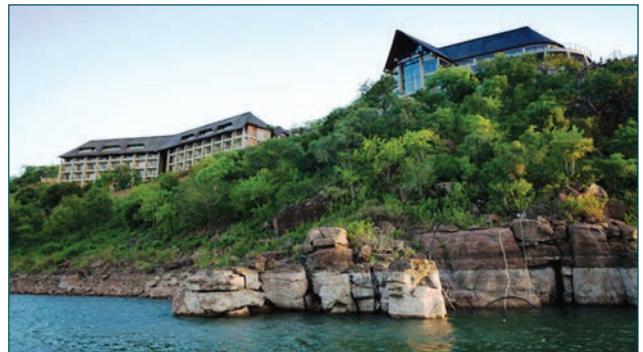
These three national roads are important infrastructures for public transport and movement of goods between the three countries.

Jozini Dam

Jozini Dam is one of the Municipality's competitive advantages. The dam is a major source of drinking water for people, irrigation for farmers, and has assisted in completing a massive mall recently opened in Jozini.



Above from left: Jozini Bridge – this is one of the most beautiful curved bridges in the country. One can be proud walking over it, as it crosses Jozini Dam for about 650m and stands 60m above the water; Ghost Mountain – this is a great and strange mountain. On top of it is a grey peak shaped like the head of an old woman. Looking east from Mkuze, two very pronounced features rise out of the Lebombo Range. On the left, Gaza, and on the right, Tshaneni. At irregular intervals over the years, strange lights and flickering fires have been seen amongst the cracks and cliffs of the summit. Weird noises and strange calls have also been heard. Eventually it was thought to be haunted but, of course, it wasn't.



Above: Accommodation facilities – Jozini has a wide range of lodges, hotels, and bed and breakfast accommodation.



Above from left: Usuthu Gorge – the river rises near Amsterdam, Mpumalanga, South Africa, and flows through Swaziland in an easterly direction, where it enters the Lebombo Mountains. The 13km gorge forms the boundary between Swaziland and South Africa. For about 20km, it forms the border between South Africa (province of KwaZulu-Natal) and Mozambique. There, in the Ndumo Game Reserve, it absorbs its largest tributary, the Pongola River. It then meanders through the Mozambican coastal plain and empties into southern Maputo Bay, some 85km downstream; Red Cliff – this cliff is situated next to KuMahemane and is located in the Ndumo Game Reserve, with a relaxed resting area for tourists. It is an original clay cliff.



Above: Mozi Pan is well known for the abundance of waterbird species found there. Surrounded by rural villages and woodland, the pans are situated on the Mkhuze River floodplain between Mkhuze Game Reserve and Lake St Lucia. The density and diversity of birds heightens during summer and more than 100 species can be seen on a summer's day. Nile crocodiles and large numbers of hippos are present in the pan system.