



PARTICIPATORY PLANNING AND URBAN DESIGN

As mentioned, spatial planning for Mthatha West is hindered by land claims and ownership, excluding it from the SDF. Existing planning is reactionary and not participatory. Once these challenges are resolved, future spatial planning for Mthatha West must begin with baseline studies and mapping in collaboration with the community, to ensure that the results are informed by local contextual expertise and pave the way for negotiated partnership. These processes should integrate safety and improve spatial integration to the south with Mthatha and to the north-west with the SEZ.



PUBLIC SAFETY

According to the Ward 11 Committee, there were no safe spaces from substance abuse, break-ins and shootings in Mthatha West in 2020, “not even churches.” Additionally, VPUU experienced conflicting reports of whether SAPS effectively patrol there. Within civil society, few structures are able to promote safety: local CPFs and street committees are not functional. The KSD Community Safety Plan 2019-2022 provides a promising foundation, but its implementation has yet not been costed. Upcoming ward-based safety audits and plans may be another opportunity to improve safety.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Efforts have been made by SAPS to ensure access to justice at Mthatha Central, as well as by the CDC to support victims of child abuse. SAPS expressed commitment to providing appropriate services to victims of violence, working directly with DSD, and ensuring that crime statistics are used to inform social crime prevention programming. In contrast, other stakeholders denied that victim support is offered at police stations. Lastly, without informal justice structures, Mthatha West lacks the social capital to strengthen justice mechanisms within civil society.



PROGRAMME PLANNING, MANAGEMENT AND M&E

KSD’s main challenge to violence prevention programming in Mthatha West is its lack of area-based planning for the site. At the municipal level, KSD uses baseline household information to inform the SDF. Their annual performance plans are informed by linkages between the IDP and the SDBIP. Departments report on their performance regularly, to the Office of the Performance Manager. These processes must be integrated with Area Coordination work, beginning with a baseline study and localised planning, in order to mainstream area-based management in Mthatha West.



INFORMATION SHARING AND MANAGEMENT

In KSD, ward councillors communicate through ward committees who, in turn, distribute information to their communities. Multiple informal platforms are used to communicate with and mobilize residents. Ward-based and “KSD Focus” newsletters distribute public information on the KSD website. Previously, Mayoral and Speakers’ Outreach Programmes shared information about municipal planning and implementation with the community; this model may be effective in strengthening civic engagement in Mthatha West. However, barriers of distrust could hinder future information-sharing, as sometimes community members trust KSD officials more than councillors.



RESEARCH AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Only one academic study has been completed of Mthatha West; in it, the area is referred to as “Greater Mandela Park.” No KSD officials were aware of additional published research. In terms of training, KSD has relationships with DUT and nearby Technikons to upskill future KSD employees and link to internships with the municipality. The Community Development Unit at WSU is also a potential partner. Efforts have also been made to provide capacity-building to traditional leaders. KSD requested support to offer peace officer and crowd control trainings to municipal law enforcement.