

Integrating Traditional Leaders in the Modern System of Governance

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ABSTRACT

A Traditional leader and his community are able to improve local economic development without relying on government to build infrastructure for rural areas. The aim of the study was to highlight that traditional leaders have important role in their communities and are also relevant in the modern system of governance. This is demonstrated clearly in the case study that was conducted in Kwa Zulu Natal in the Traditional Council of Qwabe/ Enkanini. Empirical research was done using questionnaires as scientific methodology to collect data. The findings of the study were that a Traditional leader and his community were able to sit together and identified the opportunities and challenges for development in their area using community engagement meetings. The traditional leader appointed headmen to work with the community members to farm identified crops, build schools and build recreation center in Qwabe/Enkanini. With all the profits the Traditional leader was able to send community members to high learning institutions and also create work for the community members.

Keywords: Traditional leader; Community engagement; Modern system; Traditional Council

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this article is to demonstrate that traditional leaders are able to fast track service delivery in rural areas. The study focuses on Qwabe/Enkanini Traditional Council (TC) as a case study to demonstrate the significance of traditional leaders in advancing services. The case study focuses on the work of the traditional leader and the community, identify the success story and challenges that face the implementation of the projects in the rural area and identifies the necessary actions that the community and traditional leader undertaken to address issues.

BACKGROUND

Qwabe Nkanini Traditional Council was established in 2003, with 7500 hectares of land with over 2800 community members (Figure 1). The traditional leader heading the Traditional Council is Nkosi Daniel Zakhele Gumede. The traditional leader has 11 villages that is led by 11 headmen. The traditional leader is passionate about education and also ensuring that the community in his area is educated (Figure 2). Agriculture is used as the source of income to sustain the community in the area. The main funder of the agriculture farming is the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform. The TC is situated in KwaZulu Natal province in the iLembe District in Kwa Dukuza the key feature of Kwa Dukuza is the N2 Development Corridor. The area is linked to Dolphin Coast, Ballito, Nkwazi and Zinkwazi Beach. The Kwa Dukuza Local Municipality is a category B municipality. It is one

of the four municipalities that make up the district. Kwa Dukuza previously known as Stanger is the district node that is dominating commercial center in the iLembe District. The area stretches from Zinkwazi River in the north to the Tongaat River in the south (Figure 3). The main economic sectors in the area is Agriculture and tourism [1].

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF QWABE/ ENKANINI TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

Qwabe/Enkanini Traditional Council's fundamental strategy is to upgrade living conditions and human development potential within I Lembe District in the Kwa Dukuza area by: Substantially reducing levels of unemployment The TC is stimulating income generating opportunities for the economically active population of Qwabe, so as to reduce unemployment by 20% or more within 7 years. In this way it is envisaged that poverty in the area will be substantially reduced; Creating a healthy and clean living environment - The council is creating a clean living environment that creates a good quality of life for the residents of Qwabe including parks, clean rivers and air, well managed utility services and access to effective health and social services; Providing engineering services at an affordable and sustainable level. The council is to providing services (such as electricity) that are appropriate and affordable and are paid for. The council is receiving payment levels of 90% and above in terms of all services; Reducing levels of crime and violence. The council seeks to create a safe and secure environment with sufficient policing, criminal justice and emergency services

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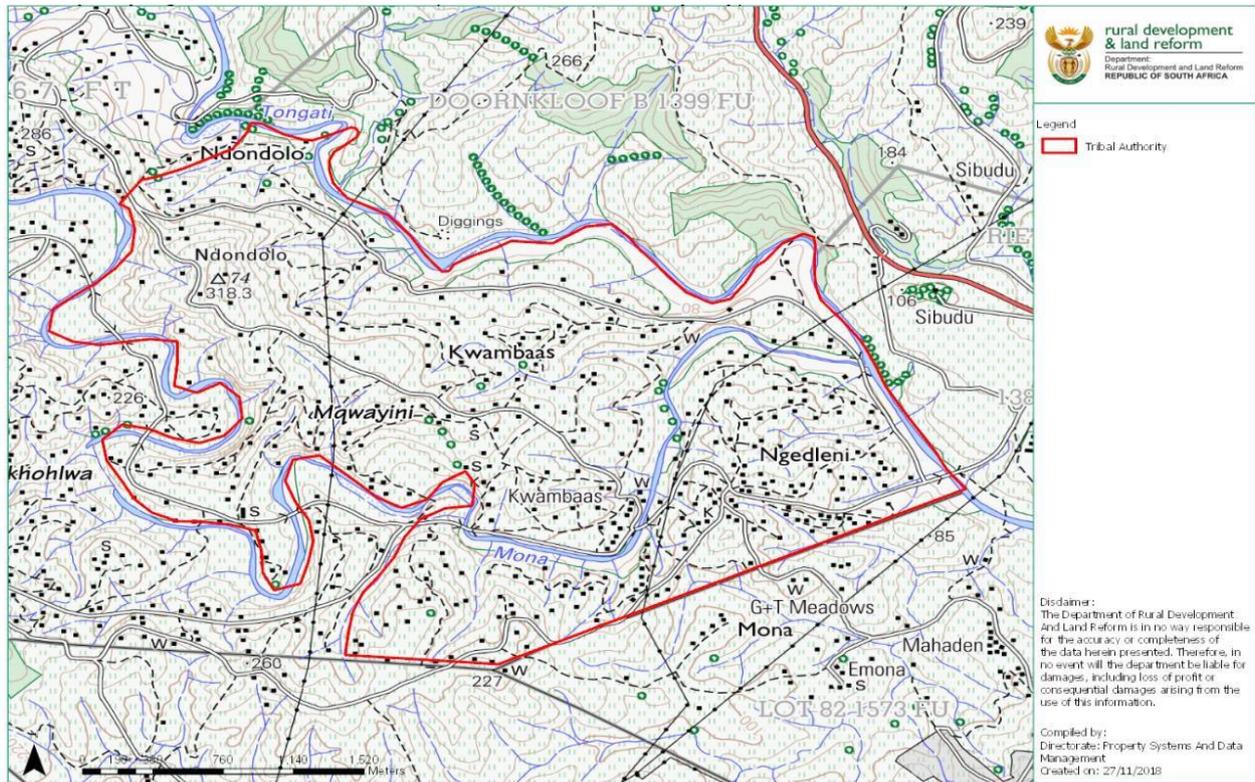


Figure 1: Locality Map, Qwabe Traditional Council, Ilembe District Municipality, Kwazulu-Natal.

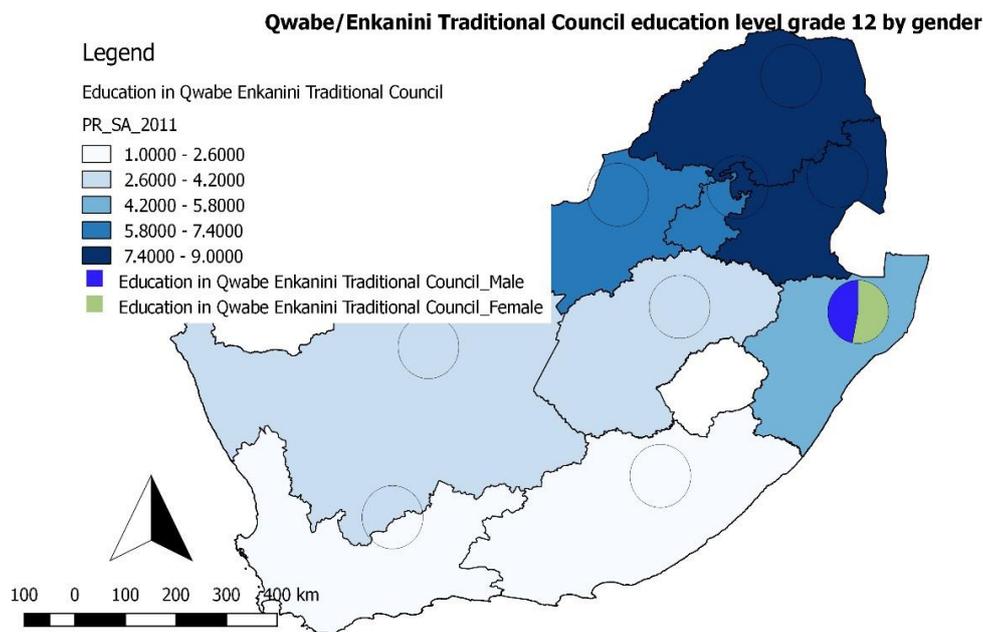


Figure 2: This indicates that, 50% of women are interested in education, the colour green on the map highlight the number of women in traditional communities with grad 12 qualification and colour blue on the map shows the number of men who has the grade 12 qualification. The following map presents gender breakdown of number of women against men in the Qwabe/ Enkanini Traditional Council. Figure 2 provides a first illustration of gender representation of women and men who obtain grade 12 qualification with assistance of Qwabe/ Enkanini Traditional Council.

equipment and capacity, so that rates of serious crime and violence are at least 50% below the current levels at the end of the 7-year period; Undertaking the abovementioned activities in a manner that encourages high levels of community involvement, civic pride and sustainable local authority administration. The TC will provide and ensure the maintenance of local government services in a manner that is well planned, administered and accountable to the public and the TC seeks to create a sustainable community within Qwabe, where there is a strong community identity; respect

and protection of the environment, civic values and human dignity and a wide range of cultural and recreational activities.

THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPMENT

The purpose of development in the community of Qwabe/ Enkanini Traditional Council is to empower all areas to improve the sustainability of and the opportunities for the community for improved living conditions. In 2016 the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Rural Development and

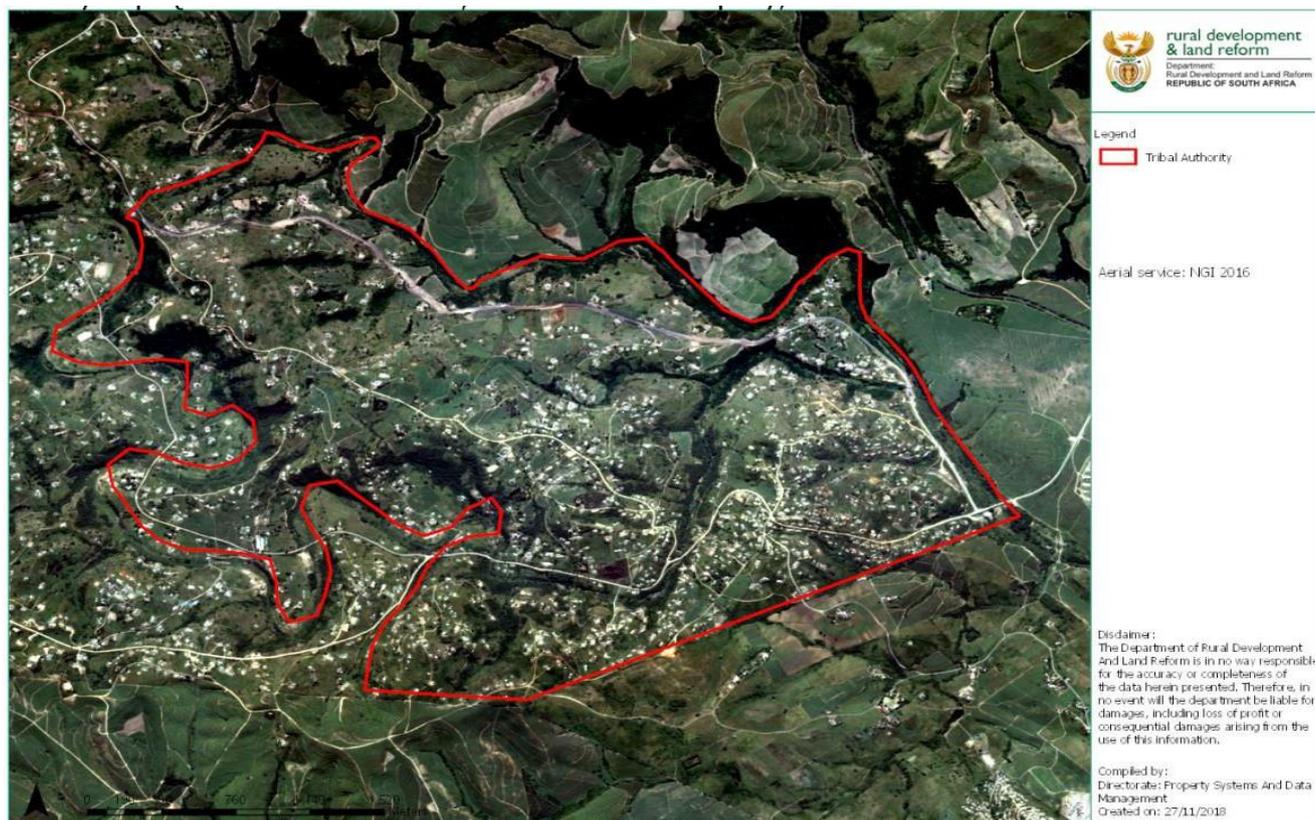


Figure 3: Locality Map, Qwabe Traditional Council, Ilembe District Municipality, Kwazulu-Natal.

Land Reform in the province of KwaZulu Natal funded the Qwabe sugarcane project with an amount of R16 million for Ratoon Management and infrastructure development. The objectives of the project are: Promote employment and economic welfare of traditional communities and Contribute to the transformation of the agricultural industry and ensure that holders of farm title deeds contribute towards the socio-economic development of the areas in which they are operating.

EMPOWERMENT AT QWABE/ENKANINI TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

The empowerment of communities is one of the objective the traditional council is concerned with. Training community members becomes an important tool to ensure that members are not taught only practical part of doing things. However, the theoretical training is also introduced in the work. For the purpose of this study, it is noted that empowerment may be promoted through development funding. The fund will assist committee members in Qwabe/Enkanini Traditional Council to tap into new opportunities. The TC started a development fund that assist disadvantaged children to enroll in schools in their own areas.

CURRENT SITUATION IN QWABE

Work within the Traditional Council is undertaken within physical, economic/institutional and social development committees. A total of 11 functional areas are incorporated within these committees including planning/environment, local economic development, engineering services, housing, heritage, health, welfare, education, sports and recreation, arts and culture and public safety. The TC is comprised of more than 100 interlinked projects. Strategic and spatial planning frameworks, business planning, institutional arrangements, implementation capacity, community mobilization and participation and delivery activities linked to the TC's strategy.

The Local Economic Strategy for Qwabe has been designed to build linkages between Kwa Dukuza and the surrounding sub-regional economy in support of the broader economic strategies of the City of Ethekwini, the Provincial Department of Trade and Industry. A comprehensive Business Audit has been completed and Sector-specific strategies focusing on the retail services and construction sectors are currently being finalized in order to promote appropriate skills development activities. Feasibility studies for the establishment of improvement of district has been finalized in order to stabilize and promote investment in existing industrial and commercial areas surrounding Qwabe.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN QWABE

The following key development projects have been identified for the 2017/2018 financial year: The Traditional Council anticipate to establish industrial area in Qwabe to create more employment and to reduce level of unemployment for youth in the area as part of the overall Traditional Council capacitation strategy. The school was established to assist the children in the area not to travel long distance in neighboring Traditional Council's for education. The development of the Hall was necessary for the community to hold events such meetings, elections and weddings without paying substantial in the city.

The development of the soccer fields was crucial to take the children away from the streets after school and weekends. The Qwabe Football Confederation use the facilities as their home grounds. The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform are the main funders of farming in Qwabe Enkanini Traditional Council. Agricultural products such as sugar cane, athurium flowers are the main products that generate money in the Traditional Council. Moreover, the Traditional Council is supporting disadvantaged community members such as child headed households (Table 1).

Table 1: The table above illustrate that the children under the age of 10 to 17 that are in child headed household in tribal areas and farms in KwaZulu Natal. Traditional Leader in KwaZulu Natal is aware that children in traditional area of Qwabe/ Enkanini Traditional Council are working hard to ensure that the siblings have something to eat on daily basis. In Qwabe/ Enkanini Traditional Council children under the age of 10, are at 24% responsible for running the household. Moreover, 25% of the children under the age of 17 years are ensuring that there is food on the table on daily basis. The traditional leader under the nutrition programme is working closer with the school to support the child headed household offering basic food, such as maize, beans and vegetables to the households.

Rural Setting	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Tribal or Traditional area	2964	615	639	774	897	1452	2073	3165
Farm	420	75	75	102	111	180	348	603

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

With the funds generated from agriculture the Qwabe traditional leader and the community were able to build, primary and high schools in the area. The schools have strong rooms, security fencing, and maintenance of school buildings, flushing toilets and sports fields.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

The Qwaba traditional council is passionate about skills development in the area: The Constitution of Republic of South Africa (1996) [2] in terms of Chapter 2 – the Bill of rights under education section 29 (1), everyone has the right to basic education, including adult learning and to further education, which the state, through reasonable measures, must make progressively accessible. All education offered to community must adhere to quality standard outlined in the South African Qualification Authority Act 58 of 1995. The objective of the act is provide for the development and implementation of a National Qualifications Framework, to establish the South African Qualification Authority, and to provide for matters connected therewith. The provisions of the act can serve as a guideline to evaluate the skills and training acquired by the community. The Skills Development Act, 97 of 1998 (Department of Labour, 1998) [3] chapter 1 section (2) sub-section (1), state the purpose of the Act that is to promote self-employment. As part of development community members need to be self-reliant. The Adult Basic Education and Training Act, 52 of 2000 [4] in the terms of the preamble of the act: Ensure access to adults basic education and training in the workplace by persons who have been marginalized in the past. Provide optimal opportunities for adult learning and literacy, the creation of development of skills in keeping with international standards of the academic freedom. The Further Education and Training Act, 98 of 1998 [5] for the development of the community. In terms of the preamble of the act it is for redress past discrimination and ensure representatively and equal access. The provisions of the act may be used as guidelines in developing the community

SOCIO POLITICAL DYNAMICS

The implementation of the Qwabe Enkanini Traditional Council’s project has encountered the following difficulties during the 2017/2018 financial year. Deep-rooted resistance from municipality to action the plans for Traditional Council instead the municipality endorse the ward development plans. These has negatively affected programmes for the development of establishing factories in Qwabe.

CHALLENGES IN QWABE REGARDING DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUES

Integrated development as a process which is achieved over time through the implementation of programmes and projects which

integrate social economic, physical and institutional development components are hard to be achieved. Municipal councilors due to time constraints, pressures to spend and an unwillingness to make hard choices often discard development projects in rural areas. Funding is critical to the implementation of the Traditional Council’s development strategy. The Provincial Government and the have demonstrated commitment to the Qwabe Enkanini Traditional Council Development Project through the allocation of substantial budgetary resources. Some engagements have been initiated with the private sector. Very little support or even engagement has been received from other national departments. Where this has occurred, engagements have been extremely fragmented and commitments have been relatively small and tenuous.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Hood [6] pointed out that for management of projects to be successful it is important that there is hands on professionalism when working with communities. He further argue that leaders need to be active and visible to the community in order to understand what is happening on the ground. Moreover, for the leader to be informed on what is happening on the root level it is his responsibility to appoint community members that will be able to accountable and take responsibility on all developmental issue. The leader has also the responsibility to ensure that the organization is running smoothly and coordinating people to participate in the processes and providing the information needed to complete the respective assignments. Bider and Striy [7] argue that administration deals with gathering of information, processing activities and communication of data. Furthermore, employees in lower positions participate in administration when receiving written or oral instructions and when they report back on outcome of their work. Employees with managerial responsibilities complete many more administrative activities, for example, they engage in planning of various processes and the assignment of resources to different activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that, Funding should be provided for both physical and human capital projects and operating budgets so as to promote sustainability. Work should be undertaken through existing government agencies where possible, and inter-governmental tensions should be addressed through the appointment of high level political and technical champion. A clear framework for participation should be developed in order to reduce tensions between the municipal councilors and traditional leaders with regard to the implementation of projects. Funding mechanisms for Qwabe Enkanini Traditional Council’s Projects must be developed and inter-governmental agreements should be concluded in order to provide funding stability to support the implementation of projects.

CONCLUSION

The level of community development in Qwabe/Enkanini Traditional Council is outstanding, traditional leader is working closely with the community members to uplift the lives of the marginalized. Community of Qwabe/Enkanini Traditional Council are self-reliant and also the traditional leaders is progressive in all his plans. The community is part of the majority of shareholders and they are contributing economically in the area. The traditional leader use legislation developed in government to structure the projects and to align with the rules and regulations of National Treasury. Traditional leader is working closely with community and his plans are not linked with municipal councilors. There is an independent Auditor to check and balance the financials of the traditional council. Traditional leader is able to source funding from government departments that are willing to uplift rural areas. However, traditional leader's work and the municipal councilor remains daunting in the integrated development plans. The traditional leader and the community initiated projects that made the rural area more prosperous.

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