

**A SURVEY OF THE ROLE OF FETAKGOMO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT
MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

By

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DECLARATION

I, **KGOLOKO JOHANNES SESWAI**, declare that the mini-dissertation hereby submitted to the University of Limpopo, (Turfloop Graduate School of Leadership) for the degree of Master in Development in the Faculty of Management Sciences and Law has not previously been submitted by me for a degree at this or any other university, that it is my own work in design and in execution, and that all material contained herein has been duly acknowledged.

.....
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.....
DATE

DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to my parents, Nthepeng Lazarus Seswai and Maatemeke Jeanett Seswai, and to my wife Magobedi Disebo Seswai.

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I give thanks to the Enabler, my Creator and Lord God Almighty who gave me the opportunity, wisdom and strength to complete a task of this nature. My sincere and heartfelt thanks go to the following people who made the completion of this study possible:

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the investigation is to research the contribution of Fetakgomo Local Municipality in alleviating poverty through poverty alleviation projects. Poverty and inequality have reached unacceptable proportions and the most hit are people living in rural areas and as a results the gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen. Both qualitative and quantitative research methods were used. Eighty respondents filled in the questionnaires. Interviews were conducted with Fetakgomo Local Municipality management and other relevant stakeholders.

The research findings indicate that the communities around Fetakgomo Local Municipality specifically Nkwana, Nchabeleng, Strydkraal, Apel, Mohlaletse and Mashilabele are partly benefiting from Fetakgomo Local Municipality. The findings also show that Fetakgomo Local Municipality is partly contributing positively towards poverty alleviation within the municipality. The major findings of this research study are that poverty alleviation projects are partly effective in alleviating poverty, especially among needy families. The final results from the study show that most of the rural poverty alleviation projects are not sustainable. The main reasons leading to poor performance of rural poverty alleviation projects are lack of participation of key stakeholders, lack of financial management, inefficient management and lack of planning.

The study recommends that committed stakeholders, individuals and poverty alleviation projects who take part in poverty alleviation projects should be considered for funding and training rather than providing state grants only to groups of people. Resources such as transport should be provided to poverty alleviation projects in local areas to access any type of market. All the local economic development projects should install palisade, surveillance systems and electric security fences around the projects to prevent theft.

The study also recommends that a stipend of R1500.00 should be paid to each project member to encourage and attract those who are interested. The research study also recommends that there must be a continuous monitoring and evaluation of poverty alleviation projects on a regular basis by government officials.

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED

LED	:	Local Economic Development
EPWP	:	Expanded Public Works Programme
IDP	:	Integrated Development Plan
NDA	:	National Development Agency
DoE	:	Department of Education
DTI	:	Department of Trade and Industry
GSDM	:	Greater Sekhukhune District Municipality
GEAR	:	Growth Economic and Redistribution
BMF	:	Black Management Forum
CDP	:	Community Development Practitioner
CDW	:	Community Development Worker
CLO	:	Community Liaison Officer
MEC	:	Member of the Executive Committee
WSSD	:	World Summit for Sustainable Development
HPI	:	Human Poverty Index
NGO	:	Non-Governmental Organization
CBO	:	Community Based Organization
FBO	:	Food Based Organization
CBPWP	:	Community Based Public Works Programme
DWAF	:	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry
TGSL	:	Turfloop Graduate School of Leadership
DPLG	:	Department of Provincial and Local Government
UNPD	:	United Nations Development Programme
CSOS	:	Civil Society Organisation
MDG	:	Millennium Development Goal
NYDA	:	National Youth Development Agency.

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CHAPTER 1

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This chapter covers the brief background, the statement of the problem, significance of the study, aim of the study, motivation of the study, objectives of the study and research questions.

1.1 BRIEF BACKGROUND

This research study focuses on the role of the local municipality in poverty alleviation. The municipality chosen for the study is Fetakgomo Local Municipality, Limpopo Province. This municipality is within Sekhukhune District Municipality. Swanepoel and De Beer (1997:2) see poverty as both the problem of an individual and a community challenge. As a result, the eradication of poverty and underdevelopment is the biggest challenge facing democratic South Africa (DWA, 2005:1). Therefore, local municipality operations can be directly responsible for generating benefits that address poverty. Fetakgomo Local Municipality, in pursuit of community development projects, is the local municipality that can assist communities in the changes that are taking place through providing them with relevant information and empowering them. The potential for local municipalities to contribute to poverty reduction varies across the country. Rural communities depend on different resources to meet their needs. For example, in order to enhance community development there is a need to take decisions in a participatory manner. The study focuses on the use of local municipalities by communities in Sekhukhune District with a focus on Fetakgomo Local Municipality, investigating the the impact that they have on community development projects.

Historically, Civil Society Organization (CSOs) received their funding directly from donors. However, South Africa now with a credible government has signed agreements with many donor countries. For a number of reasons a conscious decision was taken by government to establish a single entity through which funds should be channeled (NDA 2005:4). Thus, currently, CSOs have expanded their pool of resources to include donations from donor countries.

Poverty alleviation through local municipalities is one of the primary socio-economic goals of developing countries and international assistance agencies. The eradication of poverty and the promotion of sustainable development represent two of the most important challenges facing the world in the 21st century. Within the context of sustainable development, the expectation is that all human beings will have the opportunity to satisfy their basic needs in an appropriate way, to enjoy equal access to resources, to have a say in the social and economic development process as it affects them and to participate in political decision-making. On the one hand, sustainable development in rural communities brings excitement in the sense that it changes the lives of poor people for the better, for example, poverty alleviation projects create employment and generate income. On the other hand, sustainable development brings confusion in rural communities for the reason that most rural development programmes have not been sustainable (Warburton, 1998:1-2).

The main reason for encouraging local municipalities to initiate rural poverty alleviation projects is to improve the living standard of the rural communities. This can happen only if such projects create employment that makes people to sustain their livelihoods. Development is currently one of the most vital issues in the world, which cannot be overlooked or ignored. The South African government in particular is faced with some of the toughest challenges of development. Development initiatives under the apartheid government, especially in the black communities were characterized by a top-down decision-making approach, which often resulted in the forced imposition of development projects on the communities. Black people had no voice in decision making at all levels of government. The result of such actions was the rejection of

these projects by the communities which often led to the vandalization of the completed projects, which were viewed as edifices of apartheid policies. In the new dispensation, with a democratic government in place however, every effort is being made to ensure that development programmes are driven by the recipient communities through their active participation, which should culminate in the capacity building of the communities to maintain and undertake future projects (Gyan, 1999: 16).

The Community Based Public Works Programme (CBPWP) is one of the government's programmes which aims at rendering community development for poverty alleviation, job creation, skill development, community empowerment and the realization of the objectives of government in the fight against poverty. Apart from a variety of skills needed for the job, community workers also need to know and understand the basic principles underlying their work. When they know and understand these principles, their work usually finds meaning with them. In their confrontation of daily choices, they thus have to be guided in opting for those alternatives that benefit the community as a whole.

1.2 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Studies can have theoretical and practical significance. This study is of practical utility. From this study it is anticipated that the local municipalities in the greater Sekhukhune district municipality may draw important lessons from its findings and that the study will contribute to practice by articulating the role of local municipalities in poverty alleviation projects in the district based on this case study of Fetakgomo Local Municipality. For instance, the findings of the study can be used to improve the use of local municipalities by communities. The results of this study will also be submitted to district municipalities and the Department of Local Government and Housing. The community development workers, (CDWs) and community development project managers who will take part in the study, will be able to, based on this study, identify (and subsequently acquire) skills that may be lacking in the execution of their duties.

The study will also remind the community liaison officers and community service managers within the local municipalities about the role that they should play, especially with regard to community development. In other words, the study will serve to inform practice.

1.3 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Sekhukhune District Municipality has been declared by the former State President, Mr Thabo Mbeki and the current state President, Mr Jacob Zuma as the nodal point for development in order to alleviate poverty. Sekhukhune District Municipality is one of the most disadvantaged district municipalities in Limpopo Province, where people still live under conditions of poverty characterized by severe poor living conditions, poor basic services as well as poor infrastructure. Poverty is a persistent challenge in the municipality despite various interventions by the government. Therefore, one of the local municipalities, Fetakgomo Local Municipality which is located Sekhukhune District Municipality, as the first sphere of government, should make sure that community development through community participation takes place in order to alleviate poverty and other social ills in the area. Apart from that, only small minorities (10%) of the beneficiaries are in control and they often take decisions without engaging other project members. This has frequently led to the mismanagement of funds and resources. The project members were frequently in conflict concerning the management and utilization of funds. There was neither consultation nor involvement and participation of project members in issues related to the poverty alleviation projects.

Furthermore, to compound the problem, the community members were not properly mandated, empowered and informed by the government and therefore they could not contribute to making decisions that affect them, and as a result they could not play a vital role in creating a sustainable society. Another problem is that local government officials e.g. Community service managers, Community Liaison Officers (CLO), Local Economic Development (LED) managers, community development practitioner, Community Development Workers (CDWs), ward councilors, ward committee members and other relevant stakeholders did not do proper monitoring and evaluation both during the implementation and after the completion of the project. The importance of this matter is that, if the problem of mismanagement of funds of poverty alleviation projects and resources is not attended to, the projects will fail and the poverty rate will increase and rural community development will not take place in Fetakgomo Local Municipality. At the end, the adverse consequences will then be endured by thousands of people in the local municipality.

1.4 AIM OF THE STUDY

The aim of the study is to investigate the contribution which the local municipality is making in poverty alleviation with reference to Fetakgomo Local Municipality located in Sekhukhune District, Limpopo Province.

1.5 MOTIVATION OF THE STUDY

Government and stakeholders initiate poverty alleviation projects to improve the conditions of living of the poor. Unfortunately the researcher realized that there are many development projects that are initiated in rural areas but do not seem to contribute towards community development. Furthermore, communities do not embrace these projects as government and donors drive these projects with little or no involvement of community members in initiating them. The researcher is currently working as a Community Development Practitioner (CDP) in the Department of Social Development, Mpumalanga Province in Mkhondo Sub-District office in Piet Retief. The researcher has discussed the topic of the study with the senior managers of

Fetakgomo Local Municipality and the community service manager, Local Economic Development manager and Integrated Development Plan manager. They were positive about the research topic and they indicated that this would assist in the reviewing and formulating programmes on development and poverty alleviation projects in the municipality. To that end, the study has policy significance.

1.6 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study had the following objectives:

- To find out how the poverty alleviation projects by Fetakgomo Local Municipality can enhance effective and efficient development in all the areas of the municipality.
- To gain new insight through the literature study into the factors that can influence development.
- To identify the contribution of poverty alleviation projects by Fetakgomo Local Municipality, towards community development.
- To identify and develop strategies that can be used to sustain development within Fetakgomo poverty alleviation programmes.

1.7 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following research questions were posed in this study:

- What tangible and intangible benefits are communities residing within Fetakgomo Local Municipality getting from poverty alleviation projects?
- What factors are inhibiting Fetakgomo Local Municipality from contributing meaningfully to poverty alleviation?
- What recommendations can be made to improve the role played by Fetakgomo Local Municipality in poverty alleviation interventions?

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Terre Blanche and Durrheim (1999:17) state that literature review involves the identification and analysis of literature related to one's research project. This is done because a research project does not exist in isolation, but must build upon what has been done previously. The main focus of the literature is on the review of poverty and how local municipalities such as Fetakgomo Local Municipality can benefit the people using poverty alleviation projects. The state has the primary responsibility to play a leading role by creating an enabling environment, one which allows the poor to improve their circumstances and actively seek a participative role in that process.

With regard to participation and local choice, we should accept that the local people are the experts with the best local information available in their particular area, therefore their participation holds the key to unlocking the treasure chest of indigenous knowledge. The power relationship between insiders and outsiders should be such that the local people should feel at ease to talk about their problems and their development priorities in their own particular way without being pressured. The development process should be an empowering and capacity building process for everyone involved.

Self-reliance is a very important point of departure in grassroots development because devolution of power is often very expensive for the central government, and it may also be regarded as politically risky for them. However, local communities should enjoy a partnership approach to development with formal development institutions. These institutions should be able to reach the people with appropriate information when needed, be it by way of the mass media or through links with community-based organizations. Unfortunately, this is one of the stumbling blocks for rural development,

because the structure of institutions hampers effective communication for development

2.2 THE BURDEN OF POVERTY

Poverty remains a serious problem in South Africa (Kalati and Manor, 2009:117). According to the White Paper for Social Welfare (1997:201) half of South Africa's population can be categorized as poor, with most people living below the poverty line. Poverty in this country is clearly reflected in the income inequality. The poorest, 40% of households, receive only 11% of the total income, whilst the richest, a 10% minority, receives a massive 40% of the total income (May, 2000:13). Poverty is also related to geographic areas. Wilson et al. (2001:303) as well as Goldsmith and Blakely (1992:45) confirm that most of the poor live in rural areas. However, Ropers (1992:24) argues that the poor appear to exist everywhere and that no city or town, urban or rural is immune to poverty.

The causes of poverty are multiple and interdependent (Ropers, 1992:17). Underemployment and unemployment are the primary causes of poverty (Goldsmith & Blakley, 1992:38; World Bank, 1997:20 and Ropers, 1992:176) these writers argue that many poor people have short term jobs or involuntary work, part-time and as a result they are called the working poor. May (2000:40) argues also that most unemployed poor people are poorly educated. It is their lack of education and training that makes it difficult for them to get into formal sector employment and make a difference.

The burden of poverty is spread unevenly throughout the developing countries of the world. Nearly half of the world's poor live in Asia with sub-Saharan Africa a smaller, but still highly disproportionate share of global poverty. The poor are often concentrated in rural areas with high population densities (RSA, 2004:8). The definition of poverty varies, but the World Social Summit for Social Development in 1995 provided a definition that embraces all the dimensions of human life. Poverty has

various manifestations that include lack of income and production resources sufficient to ensure sustainable livelihood; ill health, limited or lack of access to education and other basic services, increased mortality from ill health, homelessness and inadequate housing, unsafe environment and social discrimination in decision making, and in civil, social and cultural life (Chikwanha-Dzenga, 1999:39).

Internationally, extreme poverty is measured by an income poverty line of US\$1 per person per day. The seriousness of extreme poverty has taken a human-rights direction. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed that everyone is entitled to a standard of living to provide for the health and well being of oneself and one's family. In accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the international conference recognizes that freedom from fear can be achieved only if everyone enjoys economic, social and cultural rights in addition to civil and political rights.

Human poverty is referred to as a denial of choices and opportunities for living a tolerable life. This is not measured only in terms of opportunities and choices to live a long, healthy and creative life, to sustain a living standard with freedom of choice, self-respect and self-esteem (UNDP, 1997:2-5). Human Poverty Index (HPI) refers to an attempt to capture a broader measure of poverty, however it is not explained in terms of money or income. HPI measures progress in a country and it is also used to measure deprivations in basic dimensions of human development, as those people who are not beneficiaries of the progress in a particular country.

Rural poverty

Rural poverty is, to a large extent, an outcome of a number of interrelated forces that limit the success of any single action programme. This implies the use of multi-dimensional approach to address the causal factors. Since new resources are scarce, such an approach would need to work out a new means of reallocating the already existing resources. A strategy for alleviating poverty in South Africa's rural areas, for example, would therefore, have to include an action plan that promotes the sustainability of Rural Poverty Alleviation Projects (Chikwanha-Dzanga, 1999:47).

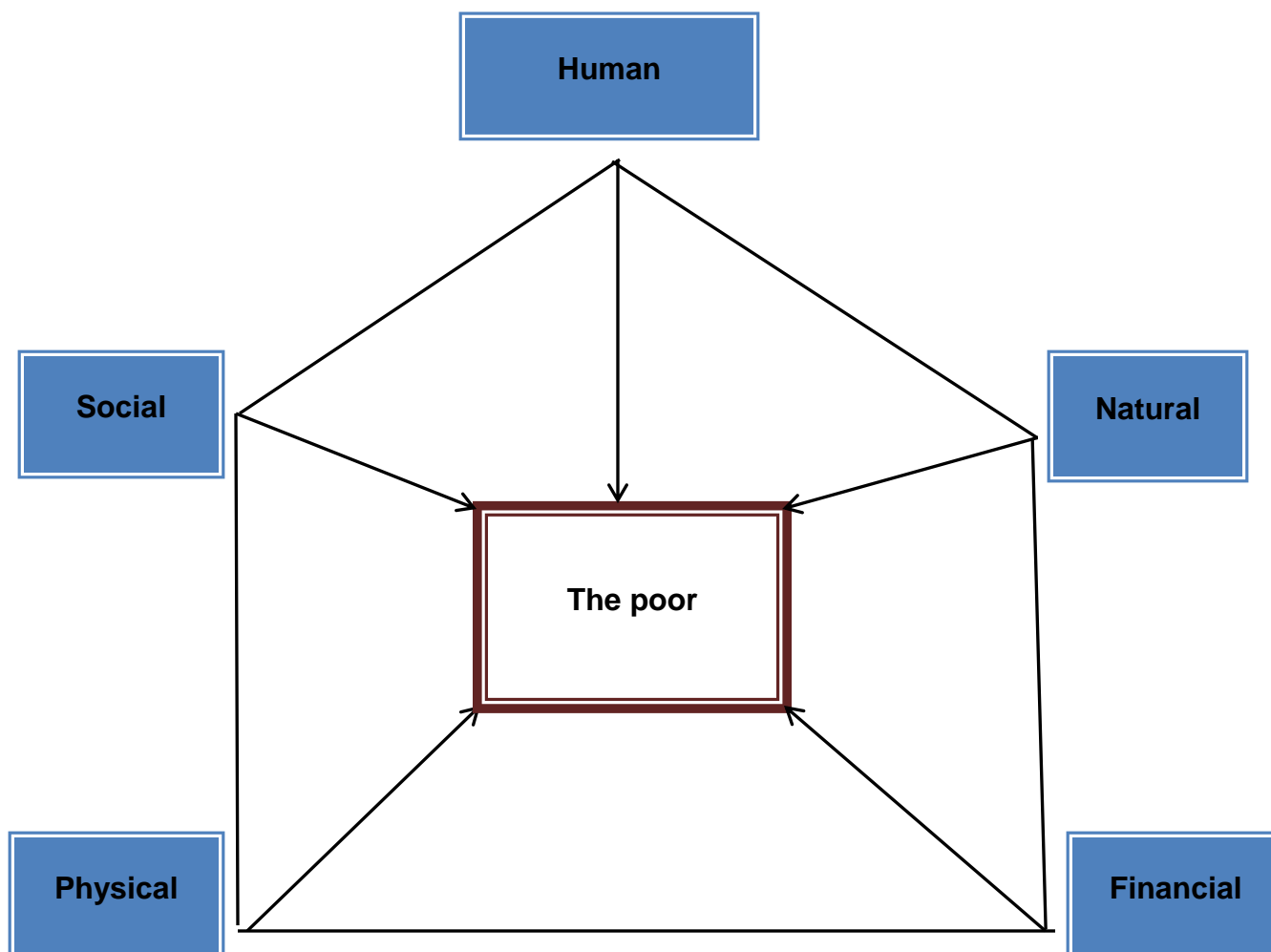
2.3 SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD FRAMEWORK

The sustainable livelihood framework places people, particularly rural poor people at the centre of a web of inter-related influences that affects how these people create a livelihood for themselves and their households. Closest to the people at the centre of the framework are the resources and livelihood assets that they have access to and use. These can include natural resources, technologies, their skills, knowledge, capacity, health, access to education, sources of creditor and their networks of social support. A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future. The livelihood framework is a tool to improve our understanding of livelihood, particularly the livelihood of the poor.

The diagram below shows the four different types of capital assets that draw attention to a variety of resources, which are often used in combination, and people rely on them for making a living.

Natural capital are natural resources stocks for example, soil, water, air, genetic resources, etc. and environmental services, such as hydrological cycle, pollution sinks from which resources flow and services useful for livelihood are derived. Economic or financial capital is the capital base, e.g. cash, credit or debit, savings and other economic assets including basic infrastructure and production equipment. Human capital are the skills, knowledge, ability to labour and good health and physical capability important for the successful pursuit of different livelihood strategies. Social capital are the social resources for example, networks, social relations, affiliations, associations upon which people draw when pursuing different livelihood strategies requiring coordinated actions.

LIVELIHOOD ASSETS



Poverty and Sustainable Development /Millennium Development Goals

The new world economic order brings with it positive and negative effects. The promise of globalization is the modernization of economics, the removal of trade barriers and elimination of destitution. It could also mean increasing the disparity of wealth and the deepening of the cycle of poverty (Fox & Van Rooyen, 2004:6). The Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development held in 2002 provided a list of actions some with qualified targets for implementation. The plan is a negotiated document, on which all the UN members reached consensus. On poverty eradication, it was agreed that it anchors on the Millennium Development Goals to have the proportion of the world's population whose income is less than US\$1 by 2015 (Fox & Rooyen, 2004: 30-31).

It is said that poverty can be addressed through job-creation based on sustainable development guided by the participation of local people. However, Hoff et al. (cited in Kleermeler, 2009:30) argue that from the beginning, participation was considered as a necessary component. For instance, when the US Congress mandated USAID to pursue basic human needs in 1973, the legislators also directed the agency to promote bottom-up development and the participation of the poor. Getting beneficiaries involved would lower costs, better target people's needs by incorporating local knowledge; ensuring that profits were equitably distributed and creating grassroots capacity to undertake development projects and to maintain benefits, particularly in the case of physical infrastructure.

Black South Africans, who constitute 57%, live below the poverty threshold, as compared to just 2.1% of rural whites. In developing countries, 71% of rural people live in absolute poverty. Poverty does not seem to be declining. The transfer of just 4% of the total GNP of less developed countries would raise everyone to be above the poverty line. Even growth of 1% per annum could eliminate absolute poverty in 4-10 years (Hogendorn, 1996: 41- 43).

Todaro (1994:16) refers to development as a multidimensional process involving major changes in social structure, popular attitudes and national institutions. It is the acceleration of economic growth, the eradication of inequality and the eradication of poverty. According to Hunter (cited in Fitzgerald et al., 1997: 234), it is to sustain means to keep going without interruption.

2.4 THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE ROLE OF THE STATE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The state has a very definite and even decisive role to play in community development. The problem is that the state, because of its size in relationship to other role players, tends to do too much, thus overplaying its role. Development is not the development of things. Development is not about infrastructure per se, but about the human being making use of the infrastructure. For this reason, it is important that the state does not over play its role, because if it does, it harms the development of the human being. This happens in various ways, inter alia, by not allowing the people to make decisions regarding their own future by centralized control and by apathy regarding the local conditions. The state's role is therefore a precarious one that should be played with great care.

Subsection 103(1) of the constitution provides for nine provinces, namely Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, Limpopo Province, North West and Western Cape. Each province has a legislative and executive branch. Sub-section 7(2) of the Public Service Act 1994 (proclamation 103 of 1994) provides that each of the nine provinces shall have its own provincial administration headed by a director general. These provincial administrations constitute the public sector at the provincial level (Cloete 1998: 34). As such they promote and support development at the provincial level by designing and implementing provincial policies and legislations geared towards development and by applying the principles contained in national policy and legislation to the situation within their respective provinces. At the helm of the provincial executives is the

premier who, with their cabinet colleagues (Members of the Executive Council), serves as the political driving force behind provincial development efforts.

The state has the primary responsibility to play a leading role by creating an enabling environment, which allows the poor to improve their circumstances and actively seek a participative role in that process. Local Economic Development (LED) is an outcome variable based on local initiatives and driven by local stakeholders. It involves identifying and using primary local resources, ideas and skills to stimulate economic growth and development. The aim of the LED is to create an enabling environment for employment opportunities for local residents, reduce constraints to business investments and growth, tackle market failures to make the market work better and strengthen the competitiveness of local firms. The development of the local economy of the municipality entirely relies on stake-holder participation and development of an implementable local economic development strategy that addresses the pressing needs of the community. Further to the latter there is a need to improve infrastructure that would support the local economic activities that would be undertaken by the municipality in partnership with other spheres of government and partnership created with the private sector.

Local Government Spheres

In South Africa the executive functions of local municipalities are usually undertaken by municipal departments. These functions are usually allocated to departments on the basis of specialization e.g. health functions are allocated to the health department and engineering functions to the department of the town or city engineer (Cloete 1996:36). Within the local government sphere, these functional departments constitute the public sector, (Parnell et al., 2002). In South Africa, local government has the authority to render services of a local nature within defined geographical areas to improve the quality of life of the community it serves. Sustainable services delivery, the promotion of local economic development and addressing the basic needs of communities, in conjunction with promoting the principles of democracy, are what justifies the existence of local government. Local government is often referred to as the sphere of government that is closest to the people and it can therefore play an

important development role by inter alia, making sure that people are at the centre of local development initiatives. Public participation is fundamental in this regard. Public participation is an elusive concept which acts as an umbrella term for new style of development planning intervention.

Article 152(1) of the Constitution (1996) specifies the development objectives of local government as the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner, the promotion of social and economic development and encouraging the involvement of communities and community organizations in matters of local government. Apart from that, article 153(9) (b) of the Constitution also allocates certain development duties to local government by stating that a municipality must:

- Structure and manage its administration, budgeting and planning process to give priority to the basic needs of the community, and to promote the social and economic development of the community, and
- Participate in national and provincial development programmes.

To give effect to developmental local government as enshrined in the Constitution (1996, a range of policies and legislations has been promulgated, beginning with the White Paper on Local Government in March 1998. This White Paper established the basis for a local government system geared towards the development role of local government, centred on working with local communities to find sustainable ways to meet their needs and improve the quality of their lives. The White Paper identifies four interrelated characteristics of local government that are geared towards development:

- Exercising municipal powers and functions in a manner which maximizes their impact on social development and economic growth.
- Playing an integrating and coordinating role to ensure alignment between public and private investments within the municipal area.
- Democratizing development, empowering the poor and redistributing income and opportunities and in favour of the poor.

- Building social conditions favorable to development.
- Furthermore, local government is urged to focus on development outcomes, such as:
 - The provision of household infrastructure and services.
 - The creation of livable, integrated cities, towns and rural areas.
 - The promotion of Local Economic Development (LED).
 - Community empowerment and redistribution.

The White Paper also identifies three approaches that can assist the municipalities to become more developmental:

- Integrated development planning, budgeting and performance monitoring.
- Performance management.
- Working with the public and partners.

The Municipal Systems Act (2000) uses a municipality's integrated development plan (IDP) as a point of departure for managing and evaluating performance, allocating resources and organizational change. The integrated development plan (IDP) is a development tool in the sense that it is a strategic framework for municipal governance; a yardstick for political accountability and continuity, a vehicle to facilitate communication, an agent for transformation, a catalyst for socio-economic development, a weapon in the fight against poverty, a device for attracting investment and a mechanism to fast track service delivery. At the same time, it aims to promote synergy between the local, provincial and national spheres of government and their inter-governmental functions and relationships. Essentially, an IDP sets out the vision, needs, priorities, goals and strategies of a municipal council to develop the municipality during its term of office, as part of a long term vision and plan for development. The IDP provides the framework for determining the budget of the municipality. It is closely linked to the performance management system of a municipality in terms of how a municipality is judged by the public.

The local government Act (2003) provides for the reform of municipal finance management system and aims to regulate the municipal budget process, financial accounting, auditing, reporting and borrowing. All of the above legislation and policy directives are important in realizing the vision of developmental local government and the creation of financially viable municipalities geared towards meeting the social and economic needs of its people in a democratic, participatory and sustainable manner (Parnell et al., 2002).

The “traditional” role of local municipalities as infrastructure and service providers, operators and maintainers can be a powerful strategy in supporting economic development. Efficient and effective infrastructure and service provision are important factors in boosting business confidence within a municipality. Municipalities are responsible for providing both household and economic infrastructure. The provision of such infrastructure can stimulate economic investment and growth. The impact of infrastructure and service provision can be both short and long term. In the short term, infrastructure and service delivery can create jobs and business opportunities for the poor and affirmable business enterprises. In the long term, infrastructure and its effective maintenance can stimulate economic activity that results in more permanent jobs. Co-operative governance is, however, critical in ensuring a shared vision and strategy among all stakeholders involved with infrastructure and service provision.

Business retention and expansion strategies refer to the measures that local municipalities should take to ensure firms within their area do not locate, but rather stay and expand. Business retention and expansion is similar to industrial recruitment, in that the same measures that ensure existing firms do not need to locate elsewhere, also they help to attract new firms to a locality. Equally, the promotion of small, medium and micro enterprises within South Africa is regarded as a key strategy to promote economic development in a manner that both generates jobs and empowers previously disadvantaged individuals. It is anticipated that growth in job opportunities within this sector will particularly compensate for the losses of jobs in sectors dominated by large firms that are experiencing large scale job losses. SMME

development strategy must, however, address the needs of environmental groups and broader entrepreneurial development challenges. The start up capital, appropriate infrastructure, exploitative middlemen, overtrading and lack of markets are some of these challenges.

Community economic development

Community economic development is based on the concept of developing a community's self-reliance, through human resource development and skills enhancement. The central objective of this strategy is to alleviate poverty by improving the capabilities of particularly the disadvantaged communities to create sustainable livelihoods for themselves. Community economic development focuses on combining employment training, mentoring, human services and enterprise development, to enhance access to and creation of jobs, ultimately resulting in self-sufficiency for disadvantaged communities. Communities take control over such economic opportunities and challenges and provide local and appropriate responses. In other words, in the perspective of local government, Local Economic Development (LED) brings together employment policy, urban development policy, rural development policy, social policy, family policy and health policy. LED is not community development, rather community development is about solidarity – it is about self-help groups, mutual assistance and voluntary work to help the disadvantaged solve health, education, housing and other problems. LED is about competitiveness; it is about companies thriving in a competitive, globalized world. Further, it is about local activities to make markets work better, and not about destroying markets or substituting them.

Local Economic Development (LED) aims at remedying market failures such as barriers to entry, information problems and high transaction costs. It is important to note that LED involves very different target groups. A multinational company, which may invest in a location, is as much a target of LED activities as is the young black unemployed with limited skills who has some entrepreneurial talent. LED is about small and big programmes and it includes everything from very modest to fancy activities. What all these must have in common is business thinking. The guiding

principle of LED is competitiveness. In this case, what the local municipality should do is to make sure that its location has qualities, which are competitive with those of other locations, so that companies can choose such a place rather than going elsewhere; and to make sure that local markets work so that manifold business opportunities arise. From the central government's perspective, the most important objectives for municipality's LED are: job creation, sustainable urban and rural development and explicitly pro-poor approaches within a holistic LED strategy. The local municipal LED should be broadened and deepened to meeting, first and foremost, the needs of the poor, women, children, the disabled and people living with HIV/AIDS.

Place marketing means promoting and advertising a local area, so that people, businesses and industries see the local municipality as a desirable place to visit, live in and work in. Industrial recruitment means attracting new industries to the local municipality. Various local factors come into play when a municipality engages in industrial recruitment. Although cost is significant, the cost of production is not the only deciding factor for a firm. Firms will also consider factors such as whether there is a local market for their products where suppliers are located, access to research and development institutions, access to transport networks such as ports and whether the local municipality offers good infrastructure and services.

Local firms also consider social and environmental factors when making investment decisions. These factors include what recreational facilities are available, the quality of schools and edu-care centres and also the social risks such as violence and crime. The particular strategies adopted by a local municipality need to be located within their respective Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and long term development strategy and vision. Local Economic Development (LED) does not necessitate a separate planning process, but indeed, a co-ordinated and coherent approach to meeting the development challenges of the municipality.

The focus on economic development is set out in Section 152(1)(c) of the Constitution as one of the objectives of local government. Local Economic Development (LED) is no longer reserved for the national and provincial spheres of government, but local authorities can help stimulate the economy and improve lives of their citizens, thus

engaging in local economic development by utilizing the unique powers and objects of local government, and working in partnership with community stakeholders.

Local municipal Local Economic Development (LED) is multi-dimensional and it aims to create and retain employment opportunities for local residents, alleviate poverty and distribute resources and opportunities to benefit all local poor people. Local Municipal LED can stimulate large and small enterprises within a locality, and the municipality can support Local Economic Development (LED) by providing direct economic services such as the provision of business facilities, the promotion of agricultural industries, support to tourism initiatives and human resource development programmes.

The Department of Provincial and Local Government has developed an application form for local municipalities to facilitate the approval of funds. Local municipalities should provide information about the location of main access routes to the projects, a business plan, a project description and information about the estimated duration of the project, project sectors, sustainability and, direct and indirect beneficiaries of the project are required.

Planning and setting up Local Economic Development institutions

Integrating LED strategies within the IDP means that local municipalities have to proactively ensure that LED is an outcome of the planning process. It is safe to assume that a developmental vision for a municipality will include an economic vision. In fact, it is unimaginable to think that any South African local municipality could develop a vision that does not tackle poverty and joblessness. Once a vision has been developed, the municipality will need to identify developmental objectives. The next step within the IDP process is to formulate strategies to realize these developmental objectives.

If a local municipality has created a development vision then it is obvious that certain LED strategies will be appropriate in meeting the desired objectives of the plan. Therefore, concrete projects can then be formulated to assist in implementing the

chosen strategies. The advantages of the integration of LED strategies within the local municipal plan are:

- Economic strategies are part of an integrated plan for tackling municipal developmental challenges
- Municipal resources are allocated to these strategies both human and financial.
- The outputs and impact of the Local Economic Development (LED) strategies and projects are monitored as part of the municipal performance management system.
- The role of the local municipality within economic development is clearly defined within each strategy.

Once a local municipality has decided on its Local Economic Development strategies, it is imperative to set up the appropriate institutional arrangements to facilitate delivery. Institutional arrangements for Local Economic Development (LED) refers to the range of organizations, structures and networks through which LED strategies and projects can be co-ordinated, managed, implemented and monitored. Two types of LED institutions are necessary at a municipal level, namely project and programme level institutions. Programme level institutions have co-ordinating responsibilities and are necessary both within the local municipality itself and within the broader community. A municipal programme level institution functions to co-ordinate the various departments of the municipality around the implementation of the LED strategies.

The main objective here is to strategically influence other policies and programmes of the local municipality so as to maximize their economic benefits and to co-ordinate new and innovative economic projects within the council.

There are numerous government programmes that could be accessed to support the local municipal LED. The table below illustrates a number of national departments that have programmes relevant to various strategies.

STRATEGY	RELEVANT DEPARTMENT AND PROGRAMME
Community economic development	Department of Welfare's grants and poverty alleviation programmes. Department of Public Work's community based public works programme.
SMME	Department of Trade and Industry's (DTI) small business support programme, Khula and Ntsika.
Provision of effective infrastructure and municipal services	The Department of Provincial and Local Government's (DPLG) consolidated municipal infrastructure programme and the municipal service partnerships programme.
Retention and expansion of existing businesses	The DPLG's social plan fund, the Department of Trade and Industry's scheme to enhance industry performance and schemes for research and development.
Place Marketing	DTI's tax holidays, foreign investments grant and scheme for export promotion.

Lessons and best practices

A programme level within the institution within the community has its prime purpose, which is the co-ordination and mobilization of the resources and skills of all role players within the local economy. The most common form of such an institution is a local LED forum. The South African local municipalities have opted for various forms of project level institutions and these include section 21 companies, community trusts, partnerships and close corporations.

2.5 CONCLUSION

This chapter addressed issues of poverty alleviation from both an international and local perspective. It also draws lessons and best practices.

CHAPTER 3

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers study area, population, limitation of the study, sample size and selected methods used in data collection as aspects of research methodology. It discusses and also explains how the data were analyzed and outlines some ethical considerations of the research. The research is qualitative in nature as it is an enquiry process of understanding a social problem based on building a complex, holistic picture formed with words, reporting detailed views of informants and conducted in a natural setting (Newman, 1997:329).

3.2 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research is a preplanned, systematic and organized approach to the collection of data. The data serve as evidence to support findings, which answer a clearly defined and delineated problem. Methodology is merely an operational framework within which the facts are placed so that their meaning may come out clearly. Research methodology therefore means that a specific problem which needs to be studied must first be identified and then examined so that the results may be evaluated. The researcher should always take into cognizance, the nature of the data to be collected, as this dictates the type of research methodology to be used. By methodology, Mouton and Marais (1990:32) refer to “the arrangement of conditions for both collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose”. The research methodology has a further function of obtaining answers or solutions to the problem.

The research methodology that was adopted in the current study facilitated the researcher to suggest solutions to the problems identified as prevailing in projects being executed in Fetakgomo Local Municipality. The Fetakgomo Local Municipality as the closest sphere of government to rural communities, was supposed to alleviate

poverty in the surrounding areas through poverty alleviation projects. Development was supposed to take place in the local municipality, but the municipality was not fulfilling its objectives of bringing about development. As a result, people are still poor, unemployed and the area continues to be underdeveloped.

Thus, the idea of conducting a study of this nature originates from the researcher's interest in the discipline for poverty reduction and the Fetakgomo Local Municipality's role in addressing poverty, faced by the majority of the people within the local municipality. Herholdt (1997:94) states that two out of five South Africans live in poverty. There are various types of studies using different approaches in the research process. Therefore, the research design of this study is a symbiosis of explanatory and descriptive research. The descriptive approach is imperative in this study because it offers richly descriptive reports of individual perceptions, attitudes and beliefs, views and feelings, the meanings and interpretations given to events and things. Thus, this study is both quantitative and qualitative in design, meaning that the researcher employed both qualitative and quantitative techniques for data collection and analysis.

The qualitative approach is the primary instrument for data collection and analysis (Meriam, 1998: 18-20). In qualitative research there is always an attempt to study human action from the perspective of the social actors themselves. Babbie (2001:85) notes that "the primary goal of studies using this approach is defined as describing and understanding rather than explaining human" behaviour. A qualitative research study thus entails that the researcher plans to observe, discover, describe, compare and analyze characteristics, attributes, themes and underlying dimensions of a particular unit. Qualitative research, according to De Vos (1998:15), deals with data that are primarily verbal, while quantitative research methodologies deal with numerical data.

The researcher here employed this approach because he was interested in understanding the role of Fetakgomo municipality in poverty alleviation. In this way he investigated the informants and institutions from the project area. The researcher also

used this approach to explore the research topic as an interaction of events and group interests. It was from the interaction with the subjects and informants that the research was able to produce more information that would help solve the researcher's problem. It is also due to the interaction with the subjects and informants that the researcher was able to report the data in words rather than in numbers (Fraenkel & Wallen, 1990:62). Therefore, the participants responded to various questions among others: Do these poverty alleviation projects benefit the intended people? Why are most of these projects not sustainable? What are the socio economic impacts of these projects, and what can done to ensure that poverty alleviation projects are sustainable?

3.2.1 Quantitative approach

Quantitative approach refers to a situation whereby after the researcher has collected data through interviews, questionnaires and documents analysis, the data are interpreted in terms of statistics and number values. Quantitative social research includes the following: statistical analysis, reliability, value free, many cases, subjects and the researcher is detached (Neuman, 1994:14). This study includes quantitative approach in a way of percentages of the number of responses. The responses from participants are analyzed to generate meaning through tables and percentages, showing the relationship of factors promoting the role of local municipalities in poverty alleviation in the case of Fetakgomo Local Municipality.

3.2.2 Study area

Fetakgomo Local Municipality is one of the five local municipalities within the greater Sekhukhune District Municipality. The greater Sekhukhune local municipality is a cross-border district that occupies the northern part of Mpumalanga Province and the Mid Southern part of Limpopo Province. The area is largely rural and is located outside the major towns and cities, with Pretoria and Johannesburg being approximately 200km and 250km away respectively. Polokwane lies about 120km to

the North West of the district while Nelspruit lies about 150km to the South East. According to IDP/Budget review 2009/2010, the estimated population size of the study area is 28,266 and the study area is a predominantly rural municipality characterized by poverty, hunger and underdevelopment, high unemployment rate, high rate of illiteracy and very few employment opportunities

The Greater Sekhukhune District Municipality (GSDM) has five local municipalities: Fetakgomo Local Municipality, which is the study area, Greater Tubatse Local Municipality, Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, Elias Motswaledi Local Municipality and Marble Hall Local Municipality. On the other hand, Nkwana, Nchabeleng and Mohlaletse villages were selected as communities that are closer to Fetakgomo Local Municipality and also Mphanama, Malogeng and Mashilabele are selected as communities that are far away from Fetakgomo Local Municipality. Thus, all in all, sample villages were characterized by the following:

- Location of the village within the radius of one kilometre to ten kilometres from the local municipality are (Nkwana, Nchabeleng, Strydkraal and Mohlaletse).
- Location of the village far (more than 20 km) from the local municipality are Atok, Malomanye and Gaselepe, Mphanama Malogeng and Mashilabele).

3.3 POPULATION

Population refers to the entire set of objects, and events or groups of people who are the objects of research and from which the researcher wants to determine some characteristics. According to Babbie (1992:198) a population is that aggregation of elements from which the sample is actually selected. This is a set of elements that a researcher focuses upon and to which results obtained by testing the sample should be generalized, and it is also referred to as a target population (Bless & Higson-Smith, 1995:87). Powers (as cited by De Vos, 2004) defines population as a set of entities in which all the measurements of interest to the practitioner or researcher are presented.

The current population of Fatakgomo Local Municipality is estimated to be 28,266 residents (IDP/Budget review 2009/2010). The municipality is largely rural with approximately 73% of unemployed youth. The study collected data from officials from the municipality, as well as representatives from different community development projects, government officials and other key stakeholders as will be shown in the sample below.

3.4 SAMPLE SELECTION METHOD AND SIZE

According to Dane (1990: 289), sampling refers to a process of selecting participants for a research project while a sample is a portion of the elements in a population. Monette, Sullivan and Cornell (1990:132) state that a sample is drawn from a population. It is representative when it accurately reflects the distribution of relevant variables in the target population. A sample can, therefore, be viewed as a small reproduction of the targeted population. According to De Vos (1998:190), a sample is regarded as a “subset of measurements drawn from a population in which we are interested.” Best (1993:13) views a sample as a “small portion of a population selected for observation and analysis.” Samples are not selected haphazardly and they are chosen in a systematically random way, so that chance or the operation of probability can be utilized.

Bless and Higson-smith (1995:95) enumerates the following advantages of sampling:

- Collecting data in a sample is less time consuming
- Gathering the data in a sample is less costly
- Sampling is the only practical method of data collection
- It is the only practical way to collect data when the population is extremely large.

A non-probability sampling was used when gathering data. This type of sampling is used mainly because social research is often conducted in situations where you cannot select the kinds of probability samples used in large scale social surveys

(Babbie& Mouton, 2001:166). In utilizing this sampling strategy, the researcher used his judgement to select the relevant officials from Fetakgomo Local Municipality and representatives from different community development projects, government officials and other key stakeholders such as LIBSA, LIMDEV, and NDA representatives to serve as respondents to the study. The present researcher relied on his knowledge and experience of the research population.

Thus, purposive sampling was chosen because it is relevant to the purpose of the study, which was to investigate the role Fetakgomo Local Municipality plays in poverty alleviation in Sekhukhune District Municipality, Limpopo Province. Those people who had the knowledge and information about poverty alleviation projects within Fetakgomo Local Municipality were chosen. These included ward councilors, officials from government departments, NGOs, community based organizations, Food Based organizations, and officials of Fetakgomo Local Municipality who deal directly with poverty alleviation projects. The sample was divided into two categories, namely, project labourers and stakeholders, grouped together with government officials.

The total sample size was 80 interviewees consisting of:

- 4 officials from Fetakgomo Local Municipality
- 40 Community members i.e., direct beneficiaries and indirect beneficiaries
- 2 officials from traditional local council
- 2 community development officers from LIBSA
- 2 officials based in the NDA Limpopo office
- 6 Officials from Local Economic Development unit of each of the following Department of Economic Development, Department of Environment and Tourism, Department of Local Government and Housing, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Health and Social development.

The LED officials here were selected on the basis of their understanding of what is all about their poverty alleviation projects and its performance. The government officials were included in the sample on the basis of the fact that they were working directly with these projects, and as such, they have a better understanding of how these projects operate.

3.5 DATA COLLECTION METHOD

According to Bless and Higson-Smith (1995:99), “Facts which are expressed in the language of measurement become data”. When the researcher collects data for the purpose of the research, the data are primary. The data gathered were directed towards answering the questions raised by the researcher. The researcher collected data through semi-structured interviews because this tool provided the researcher with a better chance of getting information directly from the respondents. The researcher then made probes where necessary. This enabled the researcher to observe verbal and non- verbal behaviour, record the responses and assess the validity of the respondent’s answers. The researcher probed areas suggested by the respondent’s answers, picking up information that had either not occurred to the interviewer or which the interviewer had no prior knowledge. The information obtained provided not just answers, but the reasons for the answers. The researcher was able to determine the individual’s perception, opinions, facts, forecasts, their reactions to initial findings and potential solutions. The quality of data collected is based on the methods that are used to convert that data into a readable and understandable form. The researcher employed interviews, questionnaires and observation to obtain data that are necessary for this study.

For the interviews each household was approached, and if there was nobody available at the home during the visit, the neighboring household was visited instead. The interview was done in the local language, “*Sepedisalebowa*”. Regarding the questionnaires, the researcher sat down with each respondent to interpret and clarify the questionnaire. This was prompted by the fact that some of the respondents never

did formal education. For those with education, a self-administered questionnaire was left for them to complete. The researcher distributed a total of 40 questionnaires to community members (direct beneficiaries). Semi-structured interviews were held with municipal officials, NGOs, CBOs, and relevant stakeholders. The researcher agreed with the respondents on the time that the questionnaires were to be completed and collected. Bless and Smith (1995:107) view questionnaires as the most structured way of getting information directly from the respondents. The questionnaires were distributed and then collected from respondents immediately after they were completed.

The secondary data sources were for examples government publications, recent IDP documents, recent LED documents, local government documents, municipal infrastructure grant documents and Municipal Systems Act.

3.6 DATA ANALYSIS

The most common analysis of qualitative data is observer impressions. That is the expert or bystander observes, examines the data, interpret them by forming an impression and report their impression in a structured form. In this study semi-structured interviews were conducted with the municipal officials, and other relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, semi-structured and unstructured ,open ended questionnaires were presented to members of the poverty alleviation projects, Municipal LED Manager, Municipal IDP Manager, Community Liaison officer, NGOs, CBOs, Community Development workers (CDWs) and Community Development Practitioners (CDP) so as to get a deeper understanding of their experiences, which structured instruments may not allow. A thematic approach was used, in which data were categorized based on themes and patterns. This means that the present researcher fully followed the process of qualitative analysis which, among the other things, includes planning for the recoding of data, data collection and preliminary analysis, coding the data, managing or organizing the data, searching for alternative explanations and generating categories, themes and patterns. Analysis is based on

observation and interpretation and it seeks to present a holistic view of data rather than a condensed view. As for quantitative data, SPSS was used for data analysis and reporting. To that end, tables were constructed and graphs were generated to provide visual impact.

3.7 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

According to De Vos (1998:24) ethics are sets of moral principles which are suggested by an individual or group. These are widely accepted and offer rules and behavioural expectations about the most correct conduct towards experimental subjects and respondents, employers, sponsors, other researchers, assistants and students. The study will be conducted in accordance with the basic ethical principles and standard practice of research, the researcher ensured that potential informants were, as far as possible, enabled to freely give their informed consent to participate in the research and were advised that they could terminate their involvement for any reasons at any time. No pressure or inducement of any kind was applied to encourage an individual to become a subject of research.

The participants were informed about “what the research is about, who is undertaking it, and why it is being undertaken”. The researcher concurs with Henning, Van Rensburg and Smith (2004:73) in that the respondents need to know that their privacy and sensitivity will be protected. Anonymity was guaranteed in this study and ensured, so that no third party will be privy to the raw data without the respondents’ consent, and the informants identities were protected in that they were not revealed in the report and that no harm befell the respondents. The informants’ identities were protected in that they are not revealed in the report and that no harm was done to them.

Babbie & Mouton (2001:21) further indicate that the areas of ethical concern in research deals with matters such as privacy, confidentiality and institutional or professional control. Any research study is an issue that might result into some

respondents not giving information for fear of reprisals by seniors. Therefore, in this study the researcher explained explicitly to the respondents the aim, potential hazards of the research, importance of the investigation and gave them sufficient time to decide if they wanted to participate without any major incentive, and their right to abstain from participating in the research and to withhold a response at any time. The present researcher maintained the confidentiality of the respondents by keeping them anonymous. This means that ethical issues can be easily addressed by using the following methods: confidentiality, secrecy and honesty. Apart from that, the researcher was professional in his conduct and also pledged to share the results of the study with the participants.

3.8 LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

- The areas of the study were far and the researcher had to travel long distances.
- Respondents took longer to complete questionnaires. Some could not be found on the third call and had to be replaced.
- The sample size is small and thus the results of this study can not be generalized.

CHAPTER 4

PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

4.0 INTRODUCTION

Poverty should be viewed as a social problem, but it should also be understood that it must be confronted by utilising targeted intervention methods for greater impacts. Therefore in this chapter the researcher presents the findings based on data gathered during the research process. The researcher must give an honest account of data. Data were collected from a total of 40 community respondents in which the researcher used a questionnaire. The researcher had assured them that the study was not merely to expose their plight for publicity, but to firstly, facilitate the completion of his graduate studies and secondly to hopefully draw the attention of the authorities to their isolation and lack of development. Semi-structured interviews were used to collect the data from the other stakeholders. The participants were implored to express their opinions and ideas freely without fear consistent with all research protocols.

Data were presented in this section in the form of tables and graphs that indicate both numerals and percentages. SPSS was used to analyze quantitative data. With respect to qualitative data, the researcher had to step back and critically analyze situations, to recognize and avoid bias, to strive to obtain valid and reliable data, and to think abstractly in a process of induction to come up with the findings using the thematic approach.

4.1 DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OF THE PARTICIPANTS

4.1.1 Age of the respondents

Table 1 below presents the ages of the respondents. The status shows that the middle age dominates at 40%, whereas the youth constitute only 13.8% of the respondents and the older people are represented by only 1.3% of the respondents.

Table 1: Age of the respondents

Age group	Percentage
20 - 29 yrs	13.8
30 - 39 yrs	37.5
40 - 49 yrs	40.0
50 - 59 yrs	7.5
60 - 69 yrs	1.3
Total	100.0

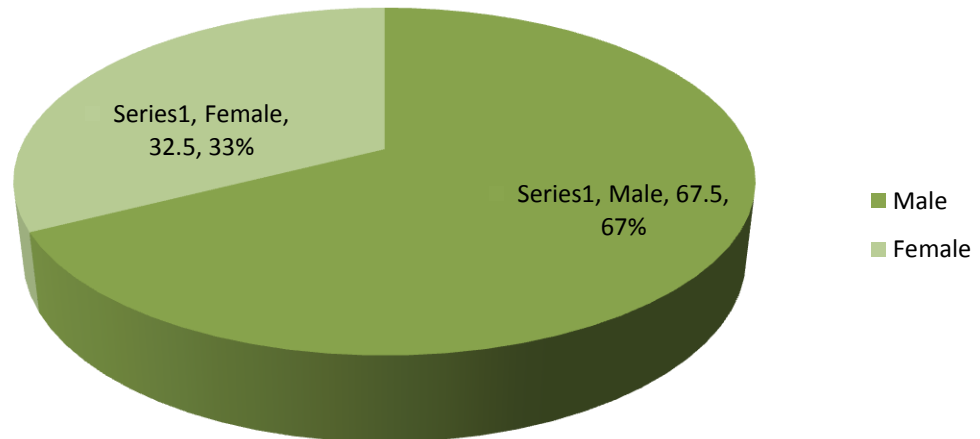
4.1.2 Gender distribution of the respondents

Table 2 is a representation of gender distribution of the respondents. This distribution shows the preponderance of males (67%) over females with (33%) and is depicted in the form of a pie chart (See Fig 1).

Table 2: Gender of respondents

Gender	Percentage
Male	67
Female	33
Total	100

Fig 1: Gender distribution of the respondents



The following section looks at the perceptions of communities about the poverty alleviation projects being implemented in the municipality.

4.2 KNOWLEDGE ABOUT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT INITIATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY

Forty-six percent of the respondents had knowledge that the local municipality had initiated some poverty alleviation projects. However, 28.8% of the respondents said that the local municipality did not initiate even a single poverty alleviation project. Apart from that, 22.5% of the respondents said that they knew nothing about the poverty alleviation projects that were initiated by the local municipality.

Table 3: Knowledge level on development projects initiated in the municipality

Knowledge level	Percent
Know initiatives	46.3
Municipality did not initiate	28.8
Know nothing	22.5
Did not respond	2.5
Total	100.0

4.3 METHODS USED TO FAMILIARIZE THE RESPONDENTS TO PROJECTS

The table below shows that forty percent of the respondents said that they knew the poverty alleviation projects taking place in the municipality through phones whereas 33.8% of the respondents said that they knew through the local municipality. Only 12.5% of the respondents said that they knew about the poverty alleviation projects through the newspaper. Picture 1 below shows the mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality discussing community development projects at an *imbizo*.

Table 4: Methods used to familiarize the respondents to projects

Method	Percentage
Phone	40.0
Television	3.8
Radio	10.0
Newspaper	12.5
Municipality	33.8
Total	100.0



Picture 1: Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality at an *imbizo*

4.4 INITIATOR OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROJECTS

Table 5 below shows that about 45% of the respondents reported that the poverty alleviation projects were initiated by community members. About 27% of the respondents said that the poverty alleviation projects were initiated by the Fetakgomo local municipality and 17.5 % said that they did not know the initiator of the poverty alleviation projects.

Table 5: Initiator of poverty alleviation projects

Response	Percent
Municipality	27.5
Community members	45.0
Other stakeholders e.g. NGOs	8.8
Do not know	17.5
Did not respond	1.3
Total	100.0

4.5 KNOWLEDGE ABOUT TYPES OF PROJECTS BEING IMPLEMENTED

About 38% respondents reported that the type of poverty alleviation project that Fetakgomo Local Municipality is implementing is in the area of agriculture; 25% said Expanded Public Works Programme; 22 % said all; and only 12.5% of the respondents said the projects are in tourism.

4.6 KNOWLEDGE ON ALTERNATIVE POVERTY ALLEVIATION TOOLS IN THE MUNICIPALITY

About 69% of the respondents said that the commonest tool used in the municipality is the food for waste to alleviate poverty in the Fetakgomo municipality. The remaining proportion said that they did not know any other means of poverty alleviation that is implemented by the Fetakgomo municipality. Picture 2 shows an agricultural poverty project which produces cabbages and tomatoes.



Picture 2: Cooperative producing cabbages and tomatoes

4.7 RESPONDENTS' ASSESSMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY OF PROJECTS

Table 6 below indicates that about 51% of the respondents are of the view that poverty alleviation projects are not sustainable due to internal conflicts and poor management. About 48% said that they did not know as to whether the poverty alleviation projects were sustainable or not.

Table 6: Respondents' assessment of sustainability of projects

Assessment	Percentage
Not sure	47.5
Internal conflicts	51.3
Did not respond	1.3
Total	100.0

4.8 CAPACITY OF PROJECTS TO CREATE JOBS

The table below indicates that about 60% of the respondents responded that the poverty alleviation projects in Fetakgomo Local Municipality are not creating job opportunities. About twenty-four percent of the respondents said that they were not sure. Only 15% of the respondents reported that the poverty alleviation projects were indeed creating job opportunities.

Table 7: Capacity of projects to create jobs

Response	Percentage
Yes	15.0
No	60.0
Not sure	23.8
Did not respond	1.3
Total	100.0

4.9 ABILITY TO SUPPORT FAMILIES FROM THE PROJECTS

Table 8 below shows that about 52.5% of the respondents reported that the beneficiaries of the poverty alleviation projects were not able to maintain and support their families, whereas 23.8% of the respondents said that the beneficiaries of the poverty alleviation project were able to support and maintain their families and 22.5% of the respondents do not know as to whether the beneficiaries of the poverty alleviation projects were able to support and maintain their families or not. Picture 3 shows Mphanama Bakery which sells its products to the local communities.

Table 8: Family support by project beneficiaries

Response	Percentage
Yes	23.8
No	52.5
Do not know	22.5
Did not respond	1.3
Total	100.0



Picture 3: Mphanama Bakery

4.10 PERCEPTIONS ON SUCCESS IN CREATING JOBS

About 53% of the respondents feel that poverty alleviation projects have been successful in job creation. About 29% of the respondents rated the success of poverty alleviation projects in job creation as poor, and 10% of the respondents said that they did not know the success of poverty alleviation projects in job creation. Eight percent did not respond.

The table below indicates that about 65% of the respondents reported that the poverty alleviation project that exist in Fetakgomo Local Municipality are not alleviating poverty and 33.8% of the respondents felt that projects were alleviating poverty.

Table 9: Responses on whether projects are alleviating poverty

Response	Percentage
Yes	33.8
No	65.0
Not sure	1.3
Total	100.0



Picture 4: Tadimasekgapa Mining Co-operative showing job creating capacity of the project across gender.

4.11 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE SUCCESS OF PROJECTS

A majority of the respondents (76%) reported that members of the community play an important role in the success of poverty alleviation in their areas, while 22.5% of the respondents said that members of the community did not play an important role in the success of poverty alleviation in their areas.

Table 10: Community involvement in the success of projects

Response	Percentage
Yes	76.3
No	22.5
Undecided	1.3
Total	100.0

4.12 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT BY PROJECTS

A majority of the respondents (67.5%) felt that the poverty alleviation projects that exist in Fetakgomo Local Municipality are empowering community members. About 18% of the respondents said that they were not sure as to whether the projects were empowering community members (See Table 11 below). Picture 5 below shows a cooperative located in the Seroka Clinic premises and they produce cabbages and tomatoes.

Table 11: Community empowerment by projects

Valid	Percentage
Yes	67.5
No	15.0
Not sure	17.5
Total	100.0



Picture 5: Empowerment of community members

4.13 INVOLVEMENT OF COMMUNITY IN DECISION MAKING FOR LOCAL PROJECTS

About 48% of the respondents reported that members of the community also form part of decision makers of the poverty alleviation projects. About 33% of the respondents said that members of the community do not form part of decision making process in the project. About 20% of the respondents were not sure as to whether members of the community form part of the decision making process within the poverty alleviation projects or not.

Table 12: Involvement of community in decision making for local projects

Valid	Percent
Yes	47.5
No	32.5
No sure	20.0
Total	100.0

4.14 VIEWS ON EFFORT BY MUNICIPALITY IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION

About 53% of the respondents reported that Fetagkomo Local Municipality is not alleviating poverty in their area and 33.8% felt that the municipality does indeed alleviate poverty in their area.

Table 13: Views on effort by municipality in poverty alleviation

Response	Percentage
Yes	33.8
No	52.5
Do not know	13.8
Total	100.0

4.15 RECOMMENDATION ON SPREADING EXISTING PROJECTS TO OTHER AREAS

The table below shows that 90% of the respondents recommend that these types of poverty alleviation projects that exist in Fetakgomo Local Municipality should be initiated in other areas, whereas 2.5% said that they did not recommend those projects in other areas (See Table 14 below).

Table 14: Recommendation on spreading existing projects to other areas

Response	Percent
Yes	90.0
No	2.5
Undecided	7.5
Total	100.0

4.16 INFORMATION ON COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

A majority of the respondents (99%) reported that there is a need to capacitate the beneficiaries of the poverty alleviation projects. Only one percent said that there is no need to capacitate the beneficiaries of the poverty alleviation project.

4.17 PROVISION OF TRAINING TO BENEFICIARIES

The majority of the respondents (53%) reported that Fetakgomo Local Municipality is not providing training to community structures, whereas about 26% of the respondents agreed that it was providing training. About 21% of the respondents said that they did not know as to whether the local municipality was providing training to community project.

4.18 ROLE MUNICIPALITY PLAYS IN MARKETING OF PROJECTS

Table 15 below indicates that about 48% of the respondents said that they do not know as to whether Fetakgomo Local Municipality plays an important role in helping the poverty alleviation projects to access markets. Thirty percent of the respondents believe the local municipality plays an important role in helping the projects to access markets.

Table 15: Role municipality plays in marketing of projects

Response	Percent
Yes	30.0
No	22.5
Do not know	47.5
Total	100.0

4.19 BUSINESS MANAGEMENT TRAINING BY MUNICIPALITY

The majority of the respondents (70%) were of the view that Fetakgomo Local Municipality is not providing business management training to project beneficiaries. Thirty percent of the respondents said that the municipality is doing enough to train project beneficiaries in business management and other training necessary for poverty alleviation projects to succeed.

Table 16: Business management training by municipality

Response	Percent
Yes	30.0
No	70.0
Total	100.0

4.20 MUNICIPAL STRATEGIC PLAN CONCERNING THE PROJECTS

The majority of the respondents reported that the Fetakgomo Local Municipality does not have strategic plan to help it plan going forward accounting for 63% of the respondents, whereas 37% said that Fetakgomo Local Municipality has a strategic plan.

4.21 TRAINING PROVIDED BY LED OFFICE

Thirty-five percent of the respondents reported that the type of assistance that the development projects receive from Fetakgomo LED office is only training. Thirty percent believe it is only capacity building. The rest could were not sure.

4.22 FAMILIARITY OF SEKHUKHUNE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY TO COMMUNITY

The majority of the respondents (67.5%) reported that members of the community are not familiar with Sekhukhune Economic Development Agency. About 21% of the respondents reported that they did not know anything about Sekhukhune Economic Development Agency.

Table 17: Familiarity of Sekhukhune Economic Development Agency to community

Response	Percentage
Yes	11.3
No	67.5
Do not know	21.3
Total	100.0

4.23 DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES ARE EMPOWERING THE POOR

The majority of the respondents (52.5%) reported that the development agencies that exist within Fetakgomo local municipality are not empowering the poor people, whereas 47.5% of the respondents claim that the development agencies that exist within Fetakgomo Local Municipality are empowering the poor.

Table 18: Development agencies are empowering the poor

Response	Percentage
Yes	47.5
No	52.5
Total	100.0

4.24 AVAILABILITY OF MONITORING TOOL

Table 19 below shows that the majority of the respondents are of the view that the local municipality has a monitoring and evaluation plan as claimed by 46.3% of the respondents. On the other hand, 27.5% respondents said that Fetakgomo Local Municipality has no monitoring and evaluation plan.

Table 19: Availability of monitoring tool

Response	Percentage
Yes	46.3
No	27.5
Don't Know	26.3
Total	100.0

4.25 RESPONDENTS' VIEWS ON MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In terms of monitoring, the table below shows that about 45% of the respondents are of the view that Fetakgomo Local Municipality monitors and evaluates poverty alleviation projects, while 23 (28,8%) of the respondents stated that Fetakgomo Local Municipality does not.

Table 20: Respondents' views on monitoring and evaluation

Response	Percentage
Yes	45.0
No	28.8
Don't Know	26.3
Total	100.0

4.26 KNOWLEDGE ABOUT FREQUENCY OF MONITORING

Table 21 below indicates that about 41.3% of the respondents said that the local municipality monitors and evaluates progress of its poverty alleviation projects on other occasions and not on a weekly, monthly, yearly and quarterly basis. Only 27.5% of the respondents said that the local municipality monitors and evaluates the progress of its poverty alleviation projects on a monthly basis only.

Table 21: Knowledge about frequency of monitoring

Basis	Percentage
Weekly	7.5
Monthly	27.5
Yearly	8.8
Quarterly	15.0
Other	41.3
Total	100.0

4.27 QUALITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS

This section examines the views of the councilors, community development workers, managers and municipal officials. In a focus group discussion, councillors believe that by monitoring and evaluating the poverty alleviation projects continuously, identifying information gaps amongst the project members and providing them with capacity building workshops based on project issues as well as encouraging bottom up approaches to development such as community participation and collective decision making on issues related to the poverty alleviation projects – can make this initiative a success.

Councillors were of the opinion that the LED office should be providing training to LED project members and the municipality must provide funding to LED projects where there is a need.

Councillors emphasized that the main reason for initiating those poverty alleviation projects was to eradicate poverty and to create jobs and employment. Councillors identified only needy families, the poorest of the poor and previously disadvantaged people and people living with disability as the beneficiaries of the poverty alleviation projects or programmes that are underway in Fetakgomo Local Municipality. Councillors pointed out that the kind of benefits which the people are getting from poverty alleviation projects or programmes include surplus food, training from accredited institutions and certificates pitched at NQF Levels.

In their focus group discussion, community development workers were of the view that in order to keep poverty alleviation projects within Fetakgomo municipality operating, there is a need to involve all stakeholders to take part in the poverty alleviation projects and by providing thorough and continuous monitoring from government officials.

CDWs were of the view that the key role that the Fetakgomo Local Municipality plays in the establishment of LED projects within the area include providing the projects with supplementary resources. They were also stated that the main reason for initiating those poverty alleviation projects was for “local economic empowerment” and creating jobs as well as “reducing the level of crime locally”. According to the CDWs, the beneficiaries of the poverty alleviation projects or programmes running in the local municipality are primarily child headed families and orphans. As such, their benefits include lifelong learning and uniforms as well as surplus food and certificates.

4.28 INTERVIEW WITH THE MANAGER

The manager is of the view that monitoring and evaluating the projects and providing financial support will keep the projects running in the municipality. The manager also affirmed that with respect to the establishment of LED projects within the area, the municipality must provide the projects with municipal infrastructure grant to be successful. He also mentioned that the projects were initiated for the primary purpose of alleviating poverty.

4.29 CONCLUSION

This chapter presented the finding of this study. Of importance is the fact that many believe the municipality is not monitoring and evaluating the projects on a sustained basis. CDWs are of the view that there is a need to involve all stakeholders to take part in the poverty alleviation projects for their sustenance, including continuous monitoring by government. Many respondents felt that the main reason for initiating those projects was to eradicate poverty and to create jobs. Chapter 5 looks at the conclusions and recommendations.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter focuses on the conclusion and recommendations with regard to the presentation in chapter 4. The recommendations for the use of Fetakgomo Local Municipality in poverty alleviation are not made in isolation from the ethical considerations. The conclusions are based on the findings concerning the direct beneficiaries or households involved in this study and an overview of the poverty alleviation projects within Fetakgomo Local Municipality.

5.2 CONCLUSION

The conclusions and recommendations can serve to improve the effectiveness of the Fetakgomo Local Municipality in its endeavor to alleviate poverty. The ages of the respondents show that the middle age dominated with 40%, whereas the youth constituted only 13.8% of respondents in this study. The majority of the respondents in this study were males (67%).

Close to half of the respondents (46%) had knowledge that the local municipality had initiated some poverty alleviation projects and more than a quarter (28.8%) of the respondents said that the local municipality did not initiate even a single poverty alleviation project. Forty percent of the respondents said that they knew that poverty alleviation projects were taking place in the municipality through phones, followed by those respondents who said that they knew through the local municipality (33.8%).

Forty-five percent of the respondents reported that the poverty alleviation projects were initiated by community members, while about 27% said that the projects were initiated by Fetakgomo Local Municipality.

About 51% of the respondents are of the view that poverty alleviation projects are not sustainable due to internal conflicts and poor management.

About 60% of the respondents responded that the poverty alleviation projects in Fetakgomo Local Municipality are not creating job opportunities.

About 53% of the respondents reported that the beneficiaries of the poverty alleviation projects are not able to maintain and support their families.

About 65% of the respondents reported that the poverty alleviation project that exist in Fetakgomo Local Municipality are not alleviating poverty.

The majority of the respondents (76%) reported that members of the community play an important role in the success of poverty alleviation in their areas.

The majority of the respondents (67.5%) felt that the poverty alleviation projects that exist in Fetakgomo Local Municipality are empowering community members.

About 48% of the respondents reported that members of the community also form part of decision makers of the poverty alleviation projects.

About 53% of the respondents reported that Fetagkomo Local Municipality is not alleviating poverty in their area thereby painting a pessimistic view of the situation. Despite this, 90% of the respondents recommend that poverty alleviation projects that are in existence in Fetakgomo Local Municipality should be initiated in other areas.

Furthermore, the majority of the respondents (70%) were of the view that Fetakgomo Local Municipality is not providing business management training to project beneficiaries.

Many believe the municipality is not monitoring and evaluating the projects on a sustained basis. Councillors believe that by monitoring and evaluating poverty alleviation projects continuously, identifying information gaps amongst the project members and providing them with capacity building workshops based on project issues as well as encouraging bottom up approaches to development such as community participation and collective decision making on issues related to the poverty alleviation projects – there are chances that the projects can be successful. CDWs felt that there is a need to involve all stakeholders to take part in the poverty alleviation projects, providing thorough and continuous monitoring from government officials to sustain the projects.

Many respondents were unanimous in pointing out the main reason for initiating poverty alleviation projects, that is, to eradicate poverty and to create jobs and employment. Others were of the view that the municipality must provide the projects with municipal infrastructure grant for them to be successful.

5.3 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are based on the findings and the conclusions of the study:

Rural poor communities should be more involved in Fetakgomo local development projects aimed at poverty alleviation. There should be proper management by community structures of development resources to ensure sustainability. The active participation of the poor needs to be secured by the national government and the National Development Agency (NDA) when determining and implementing new policies associated with poverty alleviation projects within local municipalities.

There should also be development of initiatives that will improve access rights for rural communities with a concerted strategy to improve opportunities for the poorest to benefit from both private and state resources. There is a need to encourage private

companies and the local government to capacitate the rural poor with skills that will enable them to be absorbed in high income paying jobs. Co-ordination of poverty reduction within local municipalities should be taken up within the framework of the local government development programme.

There is a need by local government to raise awareness about the role that poor communities should play in the alleviation of poverty. LED managers and LED officers should be given the necessary training, through workshops for example. There must be LED offices in each ward, NAFCOOC and development agency offices.

There must also be infrastructure which is more localized in order for the local people to benefit. There should be specific funding allocated to local municipalities to implement LED, particularly in sectors such as agriculture and tourism. The local municipality should form strategic partnership with the private sector and civil society organs to ensure co-ordination and integration of poverty alleviation projects to maximise benefits. The local municipality should take the diversity of people's needs, interest and priorities into account when planning local socio-economic initiatives.

The local municipality should develop demand-driven and customized curricula that respond directly to the needs of community-based socio-economic initiatives. The local municipality should increase the skills capital necessary for communities to gain self-reliance and sustain own socio-economic initiatives. A new model for IDP and LED must be developed in more vulnerable local municipalities. Local government policy must prioritize rural municipalities and former homeland areas to ensure effective and efficient LED and IDP for the smooth running of local governments.

The Local government must take the needs of the communities into account and communities must engage with their ward councilors, CDWs and community development practitioners. Local economic development finances must be overseen more keenly by competent provincial officials and municipal funding must be reviewed annually. Fetakgomo Local Municipality should take on the responsibility to produce, validate, legitimize and provide knowledge and skills to members of the development

projects, ward committee members, IDP forum, LED forum, hawkers and community based organizations.

It is further recommended that future research be conducted to answer the following issues:

- How local economic development (LED) can benefit the rural poor;
- The most appropriate mechanism for creating a linkage between poverty alleviation projects and the rural poor, and
- How best local municipal management can be applied to benefit the rural poor.

5.3.1 RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING TRAINING

Community development must be focused on the empowerment of people through skills development, but also through the utilization of existing human resources. When development is approached with an understanding of people's culture and knowledge of local circumstances, people's self-esteem is increased, existing capacity is released and the gap between the people and the experts is reduced, thus creating the necessary rapport. It is precisely those who have learnt to survive with virtually nothing at their disposal that possess valuable knowledge. Any future development strategy in Fetakgomo Local Municipality should therefore be drawn up in consultation with the local people and should be directed towards achieving sustainable improvement in their quality of life. Poor community members stressed the fact that they wanted to be involved and supplied with the necessary information to make informed decisions.

All the respondents stressed the fact that they did not receive any form of training for the past ten years and put their blame on the shoulders of Fetakgomo local municipal officials (community service manager, IDP manager, LED manager, CDWs and community liaison officer).

All community development structures stated that they identified training in the following areas: project management, business management, marketing strategies, business start-ups, financial management and customer service. The municipality should offer the youth development training, life skill workshops and sustainable livelihood workshops. The local municipality should also provide hard and soft infrastructure for example, Lifelong learning (learning while at work). The local municipality should establish localized open community development education and training programmes using the concept of colleges without walls. They should also develop a model to legislate and standardize community development education and training.

If these recommendations are followed, poverty alleviation projects will be a success and this will lead to economic development in South Africa in general to the benefit of all the citizens.

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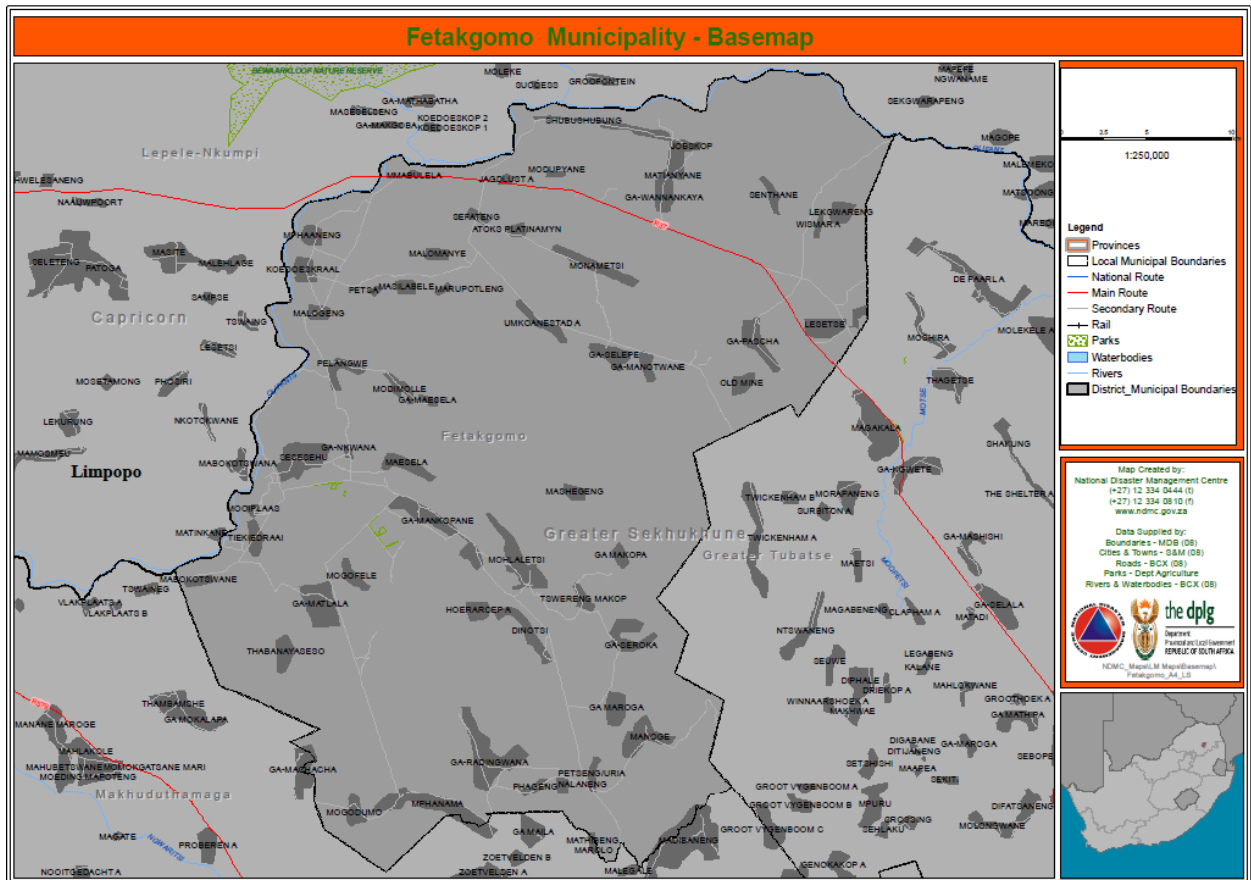
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Appendix 1



Appendix 2

QUESTIONNAIRE

The information that you are requested to provide will only be used for research purposes. This information will be treated confidentially.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Please try to answer all the questions as honestly as you can.
- Please tick **X** in the appropriate box where possible.

INTRODUCTION

Dear Sir/ Madam,

My name is **Kgoloko Johannes Seswai**, a Master of Development Student at the University of Limpopo's Turfloop Graduate School of Leadership. As part of the programme, I am required to conduct a mini-thesis on an approved topic. My study topic is: "**A Survey of the Role of Fetakgomo Local Municipality in Poverty Alleviation in Sekhukhune District Municipality, Limpopo Province**". Therefore, I humbly request you to take a moment of your time to answer the questions listed below. The questions are intended to probe issues related to the role of Fetakgomo Local Municipality in poverty alleviation in Sekhukhune District.

SECTION A: ADMINISTRATION

A.1 Respondent's Name and Surname _____

A.2 Contact Details _____

A.3 Interview Date _____

A.4 Questionnaire Number _____

SECTION B: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Province : _____

District Municipality : _____

Local Municipality: _____

Place of residence : _____

Marital Status: _____

Gender: _____

Age : _____

Home Language :

Sepedi:.....

Isindebele :.....

Tsonga :

Venda:.....

Other:

Specify.....

Ethnic group:

Pedi :

Ndebele:

Tsonga :

Venda :

Other:

Specify:

Religion:

Christian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Budhist	<input type="checkbox"/>
Islam	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traditionalist	<input type="checkbox"/>	Specify	

Education level:

Never been to school

Primary Education

Secondary Education

Diploma

University degree

Source of income

Pension

Grant

Wage

Salary

Number of people in the house

Income bracket:

R500-R1000

R1600 – R2000

R2000 – R5000

R5000 and above

SECTION : (C) PERCEPTION

INFORMATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROJECTS WITHIN FETAKGOMO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.

Tick the correct answer, and where space is provided please write your answer there.

1.1 Does your poverty alleviation projects within Fetakgomo Local Municipality have an operational plan?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

1.2 Does Fetakgomo Local Municipality have a monitoring and evaluation plan for its poverty alleviation projects if any?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

1.3 Does Fetakgomo Local Municipality monitor and evaluate poverty alleviation projects, if any?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

If your answer is **No** in question 1.3 go to question 1.5

1.4 How frequent does Fetakgomo Local Municipality monitor and evaluate progress of its poverty alleviation projects?

- Weekly
- Monthly
- Yearly
- Quarterly
- Other

1.5 In your opinion as a member of the community, what can be done to keep poverty alleviation projects operating within Fetakgomo Local Municipality?

1.6 What role does Fetakgomo local municipality plays in the establishment of LED projects Within your area?

1.7. Is there any poverty alleviation project initiated by the local municipality in your area? Tick off the correct answer.

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

1.8. What are the names of the poverty alleviation projects you know in your area?

1.9 How did you know about those poverty alleviation projects, if any?

- Through phones
- Through television
- Through radio
- Through newspaper

1.10 Who initiated the project?

- Fetakgomo Local Municipality
- Community Members
- Stake holders
- Do not know

1.11 When was it initiated? Tick off the correct answer.

- 2000 – 2006
- 2006 – 2010
- Do not Know

1.12 What is the main reason for initiating those projects?

1.13 Apart from poverty alleviation projects that are available in your area, what other means of poverty alleviation that is existing through Fetakgomo Local Municipality? Tick off the correct answer.

- Food for waste
- Do not know

1.14 Who are the beneficiaries of the poverty alleviation projects or programmes that exist through Fetakgomo Local Municipality?

1.15 What kind of benefits are the beneficiaries are drawing from those poverty alleviation projects or programmes through your local municipality?

1.16 Are the poverty alleviation programmes or projects that exist in your local municipality sustainable?

- Yes
- No

2. INFORMATION ON JOB CREATION

2.1 Do you think those poverty alleviation projects if any, are creating job opportunities for the people?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

2.2 How many workers are they working in those projects if any?

2.3 How much are workers in this project paid per month?

- Less than R200
- R200-R500
- R500-R1000
- Other
- Don't know

2.4 What do you think is the total percentage of the employed population in your area?

- 50%
- 100%
- Do not know

2.5 What type of poverty alleviation projects does Fetakgomo Local Municipality have?

- Agricultural project
- Expanded public works programme
- Tourism project
- LED projects
- All of the above

2.6 Can you recommend that these types of projects be initiated in other areas?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

2.7 How do you rate the success of poverty alleviation projects in job creation?

- Poor
- Good
- Very Good
- Do not know

2.8 As a member of the community, do you think workers are satisfied with the salaries they receive from the projects?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

2.9 How many youth, females and people living with disability are employed in those poverty alleviation projects or programme?

- 50%
- 100%
- Not sure

3. **INFORMATION ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION**

3.1 Do you think that the poverty alleviation projects that are available within Fetakgomo Local Municipality is reducing poverty?

- Yes
- No

3.2 Are the poverty alleviation projects within Fetakgomo Local Municipality economically sustainable?

- Yes
- No

3.3 How does Fetakgomo development projects alleviate poverty within Fetakgomo Local Municipality?

3.4 What are Fetakgomo municipality's future plans in poverty alleviation?

3.5 Does Fetakgomo Local Municipality have a strategic plan to help it plan going forward?

- Yes
- No

3.6 What are the expansion plans of the Fetakgomo municipality poverty alleviation projects if any?

3.7 What do you think are the major challenges threatening the sustainability of the Fetakgomo poverty alleviation projects?

3.8 What kind of assistance does Fetakgomo poverty alleviation projects receives from the local LED office?
Tick off the correct answer.

- Money
- Trainings
- Capacity building
- Do not know

3.9 What are your views on the municipality's role, in particular the LED section in supporting poverty alleviation projects in your area?

3.10 Do you think the local community has a role to play in the success of poverty alleviation in your area?

3.11 What is it that Fetakgomo Local Municipality should do in order to alleviate poverty?

3.12 What can members of the community do to ensure that Fetakgomo Local Municipality is engaged alleviating poverty?

3.13 What role does Fetakgomo Local Municipality play in the establishment of LED projects within your area?

3.14 What role does Fetakgomo Local Municipality play in helping poverty alleviation projects access markets?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

3.15 Is Fetakgomo Local Municipality alleviating porverty in your area?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

3.16 List any change that you see in the lives of community members and workers in this municipal project that shows that the municipality has the ability to alleviate poverty.

3.17 Are there other projects that have been resulted from by this municipal project?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

3.18 If your answer in 3.17 is yes, list them.

3.19 Do you think that the beneficiaries of the poverty alleviation projects or programmes will be able to maintain and support their families?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

3.20 How many household heads who work in these projects are able to maintain and support their families

- 50%
- 75%
- 100%
- Not sure

3.21 Do community members buy any products from the projects?

- Yes
- No
- I do not know

4. **INFORMATION ON COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT**

4.1 Do you think there is a need for capacity building to be offered to beneficiaries of the poverty alleviation projects to ensure sustainability?

- Yes
- No

4.2 What kind of support programme does Fetakgomo Local Municipality have in place to help project beneficiaries?

4.3 How does Fetakgomo Local Municipality ensure that members of the community are aware of LED and IDP programmes? _____

4.4 Is there any training that has been given to community structures by Fetakgomo Local Municipality?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

4.5 Do you think the local municipality is doing enough to train project beneficiaries in business management and other trainings necessary for the poverty alleviation projects to succeed?

- Yes
- No

4.6 What do you think the municipal youth council must do in youth development?

4.7 What role do Community Development workers play in ensuring sustainability of poverty alleviation projects within Fetakgomo Local Municipality?

4.8 What recommendations would you offer to the beneficiaries of the poverty alleviation projects that could assist in the successful implementations of their projects?

4.9 Do you think the poverty alleviation projects of your local municipality are empowering community members?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

If your answer in question 4.9 is Now go to question 4.11.

4.10 If yes, how is it empowering the community members?

4.11 Do you think that community members take decisions on the day-to-day running of the project?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

4.12 In your opinion, do you think Fetakgomo Local Municipality can help community members to start their own poverty alleviation projects?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

4.13 If yes, how can Fetakgomo Local Municipality help community members start their own poverty alleviation projects?

4.14 Who are the monitors and facilitators of the poverty alleviation projects in your area?

- Municipal officials
- Stakeholders
- Community members
- Community development workers (CDWs)

4.15 What is the role of Sekhukhune Economic Development Agency (SEDA) in poverty alleviation in Fetakgomo Local Municipality?

4.16 Is the agency well known to the entire members of the community?

- Yes
- No
- Do not Know

4.17 What kind of community development program has the agency undertaken so far?

4.18 What is the main aim for initiating Sekhukhune Economic Development Agency?

4.19 How does the Sekhukhune Economic Development Agency (SEDA) operate?

4.20 Is there any agency within Fetakgomo Local Municipality that empowers the poor?

- Yes
- No

4.21 What are the names of those agencies if any?

4.22 If you have any other information that you think might be relevant, please feel free to write it in the space below.

Thank you very much for your time.

KGOLOKO SESWAI (Researcher)