SECTION 2: SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

CHAPTER 11: SPATIAL DETERMINANTS AND OBJECTIVES

11.1. INTRODUCTION

Approximately 2471 settlements varying in size are scattered throughout the Limpopo Province, although by far the majority of these settlements are concentrated in the former homeland areas, namely Gazankulu, Venda and Lebowa. The spatial pattern was mostly determined by political rather than economic processes and forces. Almost all these settlements (specifically in the former homeland areas) have no or a very small economic base and function as dormitory settlements. Many of the residents are therefore also dependant on subsistence agriculture and/or from money, which is sent home from family members working as migrants elsewhere in primarily the metropolitan area (Gauteng Province).

Policies of the previous Government had an impact on the settlement and urbanisation process. Forced removals from farms and urban areas had the largest impact and the manifestation thereof is evident in the existing settlement pattern in the province. The regional development policies and efforts (such as the industrial decentralisation policy) were largely politically motivated in order to support the settlement pattern in the former homelands, which were not economically sustainable.

Before the Limpopo Province Spatial Rationale, 1999 and the review in 2002 were compiled, no defined hierarchy or functional order for all the settlements in the province was in place.

Economic and political processes and forces are undoubtedly the two most important development determinants for spatial development in the Limpopo Province. These two processes and forces which shaped (forced) the existing spatial pattern will most definitely also be the most important influencing factors to guide spatial development in the future. There are also other secondary factors, which

will influence the spatial pattern in the future such as HIV/Aids, illegal immigration, migration between provinces (which is mainly because of economic and employment opportunities). This section of the report will only identify the most important factors and/or events which had an impact on the existing spatial development pattern, as well as those that will impact on the future spatial development and settlement pattern in the province.

These factors will only be briefly described in terms of their potential impact on the settlement pattern and the economic space of the province.

Specific attention is given to the institutional factors with an overview on some of the most important implications these factors will or may have in future development. Factors which may have an impact on the present and also those that may in future have an impact on the economic space of the province will be briefly described in terms of the possible implications for the particular sectors and the economy of the province.

11.2. IMPORTANT FACTORS WHICH GAVE FORM AND STRUCTURE TO THE CURRENT SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT PATTERN

11.2.1. FORMER GOVERNMENT POLICY OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT

The policy of separate development had a very severe impact on the present spatial (settlement) pattern in the Limpopo Province. It is evident from the many scattered settlements (villages), which are largely concentrated in areas of the former Lebowa, Venda and Gazankulu. Many black people were relocated from towns and farm areas in the former R.S.A. to land in the former homelands as well as former development trust land (currently held in trust by the Minister of Land Affairs).

The past land policies were a major cause of insecurity, landlessness and also homelessness in South Africa. The “permanency” of black people in urban areas, and also acknowledgement of permanent land rights was only introduced in 1987, with the introduction of the 99 year leasehold system in the middle of the 1980’s with the abolition of influx control.

The result of previous government policies is amongst others an insufficient urban and rural land-use pattern and also a fragmented system of land administration. Many of the existing so-called "denser" and "agricultural" settlements were planned in the former homeland areas to relocate communities to these settlements. This practise mainly took place in the period between 1960 and 1980.

The impact of the policy of separate development on the present settlement pattern in the Limpopo Province is evident from the approximately 2471 settlements currently scattered throughout large parts of the Limpopo Province.

11.2.2. FORMER REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY FOR SOUTH AFRICA

The previous government's regional development policy was not only economic of nature but had a very strong political dimension.

Reports compiled in the 1930's indicated that agricultural conditions in the former homelands had been deteriorating and that there was a growing concentration of economic activity in the cities and major towns. Follow-up reports in the early 1940's also confirmed that there was escalating migration from the former homelands to the R.S.A. These reports and perceived "problems" were the reason that the new government elected in 1948 investigated options to stop the migration from the former homelands.

The Tomlinson Commission appointed at the time also recommended that industries should be decentralised to the homelands or alternatively to what is called border areas (in other words an area which is so close to a homeland that black labour could reside in the homeland and commute to work in the border industry). The implementation of the decentralisation policy officially started off in the early 1960's. The main argument for this step at the time was that the cost of urban concentration, and more specifically industrial concentration, was too high and that decentralisation would be a better option. Most of the locations that had been identified for decentralisation, however, indicate that the policy of industrial decentralisation was not purely for economical reasons but also to support a political agenda.

In the late 1960's it became evident that the border area (industrial) development was unsuccessful with no spill over to the homelands. A new regional development strategy was implemented in April 1982 and

identified specific development and de-concentration points for all the former regions (Region G used to be the Limpopo Province). Although this policy was an improvement from the previous policy, the success thereof can still be questioned.

All the former decentralisation policies were replaced by the new government in 1994, after the elections.

One of the important consequences of the past policies is that many people commute to work in urban areas and very often over long distances. Other people are dependent on the migrant labour system and thus work in major cities or in metropolitan areas far from the rural areas in the former homelands.

Unfortunately, a large number of dormitory settlements have also been created in the process of resettlement of communities to former homeland areas. This highly controversial form of social intervention gave rise to large numbers of people with few assets and no alternative form of income, being settled in relatively small settlements throughout the rural areas.

11.2.3. FEATURES OF THE CURRENT SETTLEMENT PATTERN

The essential features of the current settlement pattern in the Limpopo Province can be summarised as follows:

- Political interventions mainly between 1960 and 1980, have resulted in a shift in the settlement pattern in the province from a relatively integrated distribution of people with different levels of income at each place, to a more polarised and unnatural settlement pattern where most of the poor people live in small rural settlements (villages).
- Low levels of income and lack of skills inhibit the development of local economic activity at the village level, which confines the potential for sustainable growth within settlements (villages).
- This polarised settlement pattern became entrenched through the constitutional and legal system and through the government policy of rudimentary service provision to most settlements.

- People survived by migrating to work in other provinces or by commuting to towns in the area while leaving their families in the village.
- With the constitutional change in 1994, higher income black people acquired property outside the former homelands. Other people with less income have moved to the fringes of the homelands where they squat in close proximity to cities and towns, enabling them to enter the labour market as commuters.

The implication of this settlement pattern is that the vast majority of settlements within the former homelands are economically unsustainable, but they accommodate people who are desperately in need of improved infrastructure and improved social services. The provision of these services is essential from a humanitarian point of view, but is likely to stimulate economic growth in only a very small number of settlements. **Economic growth stimulation will be confined to those villages where the residents reflect an adequate range in the distribution of their income and skills and where local resources can be converted to consumer and manufactured goods.**

The passenger transport subsidy system (e.g. subsidies paid to bus operators) had a major influence in the past (and even at present) on the settlement (spatial) development pattern. Workers are subsidised for travelling costs between their places of residence and places of employment (e.g. mostly between the former homeland areas and the former white R.S.A.). The lack of control over the subsidy system resulted in routes being travelled and subsidised in an uncontrolled manner.

Current land ownership and land development patterns is a reflection of the past political decisions (government policies) and the associated economic conditions flowing from the former policies of separate development.

The following are all elements of the past policies that need to be addressed in future policies to ensure a more equitable and normal spatial development pattern in the province, viz.:

- the skew (inequitable distribution) of land ownership (e.g. the former homelands such as Venda, Lebowa and Gazankulu vis-à-vis the remaining area of the former R.S.A. in the Limpopo Province);

- the lack of security of tenure, although many properties (mainly urban properties) have been transferred or converted in full ownership in recent years;
- the unsustainable use of land, especially in the former homelands;
- the slow release of land for development, especially at nodal points with potential for growth and development; and
- the addressing of problems associated with the administration of public land, and the release thereof for development in the most effective manner.

11.2.4. CONCLUSION

Most of the rural settlements in the Limpopo Province are not natural settlements from an economic and demographic point of view. Only a very few of these settlements have developed any sustainable local economic base. Households have survived only from breadwinners migrating to urban centres or by commuting to adjacent farms or towns. Most of the household purchasing was therefore also unfortunately done in these towns or at the migrant destinations, which kept earnings from circulating in the settlements.

The current settlement pattern has become institutionalised because people were constitutionally unable to move permanently with their families to property outside the homelands. Furthermore, a specific approach has been followed with the provision of basic infrastructural, social and other services in the former homelands.

Standards were different than that in the former RSA provincial administrations, w.r.t. schools, hospitals, clinics, municipal infrastructure, etc.

With the constitutional changes in 1994 people were able to make choices. They were able to acquire property at any place of their choice. Although many people moved to cities and towns outside the former homelands, squatting became an alternative for a very large number of people who wanted to move but had no means to do so.

11.3. IMPORTANT FACTORS TO DETERMINE FUTURE SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE

11.3.1. INTRODUCTION

The future spatial (settlement) pattern for the Limpopo Province will also largely be determined by political and economic forces and processes, as was the case in the past. Decisions manifest in policies and strategies for implementation and are enforced by means of legislation promulgated by the National Government.

The availability of resources (e.g. natural resources) has a direct impact on economic development in areas and/or settlements. This reality dictated economic development in the past and will also be the most important development factor for future economic development in the Limpopo Province. Apart from settlements such as Polokwane, Makhado (Louis Trichardt), Musina, Tzaneen, Modimolle Town, etc. which have already developed and also have potential for further economic development, a number of other settlements (priority development nodes in settlement clusters) throughout the province has potential for future economic development. The following development determinants/factors will also have an impact on the future spatial development pattern of the Limpopo Province.

11.3.2. INSTITUTIONAL FACTORS

Section 1 of this study (Relevant information on existing development situation) provided an overview on the institutional environment, which includes policy, legislation and administrative structures insofar as it is relevant to the macro land uses and spatial pattern of the Limpopo Province. This section of the report will therefore only highlight the relevant institutional factors insofar as they will or may have an impact on the future spatial development (settlement) pattern.

(a) Legislation

- Municipal Structures Act, 1998 (Act. No. 117 of 1998)

  A municipality has the functions and powers assigned to it in terms of Sections 156 and 229 of the Constitution. This act assigns and divides powers and functions to and between district and local municipalities.

  The aforementioned powers and the exercise of such powers by Local Municipality's have an impact on the spatial development pattern of the municipal area.

- Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act. 32 of 2000);

  This act provides a wide range of functions and responsibilities for local government with respect to the developmental role that Municipalities have to play in the social and economic upliftment of local communities, etc. The most important aspect of the act from a spatial planning point of view is the requirement that all local authorities in South Africa have to do forward planning. Statutory provision is therefore made in the act for the compilation of integrated development plans (IDP's), whereby a municipality has to establish a development plan for the short, medium and long term. The integrated development plan also has a component which includes the compilation of a spatial development framework and land use management system for the local municipality area.

- Land Use Management Bill, 2003

  The Land Use Management Bill, 2003 (still to be enacted) provide for national, provincial and municipal spatial development frameworks, set basic principles that would guide spatial planning, land-use management and land development in South Africa.

- Restitution of Land Rights (Act 22 of 1994)

  This act may have a major impact on the future settlement pattern, originating from the restitution of rights in land in respect of those persons or communities that were dispossessed.

- The Development Facilitation Act (Act No. 67 of 1995)

  This act introduced measures to facilitate and speed up land development. It also laid down general principles governing land development throughout South Africa.

- ⇨ The following legislation is also likely to have an impact on the spatial development pattern, namely:
  Legislation concerning land tenure (e.g. The Upgrading Of Land Tenure Act, The Interim Protection Of Informal Land Rights Act, The Communal Property Association Act, Land Reform Act, etc.);
  Legislation with respect to water and sanitation, namely The National Water Act, The Water Services Act;
  Environmental Conservation Act, 1989 (Act 73 of 1989) and National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998);
  The Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002);

b) Policy and strategy

- ⇨ White Paper on South African Land Policy, 1997
  The Land Policy is the corner stone for reconstruction and development and address very important issues which will have an impact on the spatial (settlement) pattern such as, land reform programmes (e.g. restitution, re-distribution and land tenure).
- ⇨ White Paper on Spatial Planning and Land-use Management, 2003
  The most dramatic effect of the White Paper is that it will rationalise the existing plethora of planning laws into one national system that will be applicable to each province, in order to achieve the national objective of wise land-use.

11.3.3. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT DETERMINANTS/FACTORS

A number of other important development determinants have been identified which would most probably influence the future development of the Limpopo Province. It may also impact negatively on the implementation of a more functional spatial/settlement development pattern for the province.

General development determinants/factors:

- Domestic and international demand levels and commodity prices (e.g. agricultural and mining commodities).
- New legislation governing mineral ownership (e.g. State is the owner of all minerals).
- The need for the implementation of restrictive measures by National Government to curb influx of illegal persons, which places enormous pressure on the already overextended and undersupplied social services (e.g. schools, clinics) and infrastructural services (e.g. water, electricity, etc.).
- The effective rationalisation of the approximately 2471 settlements in the Limpopo Province to enable the creation of economically viable communities/settlements with acceptable levels of social services and municipal infrastructure provision to improve the general quality of life of the inhabitants.
- The capacitation and government support to ensure effective developmental local government which is capable of dealing with all developmental issues in local and district municipalities.
- Local economic development which means the creation of local development activities and job opportunities in settlements (specifically higher order or priority nodes) which is likely to stimulate sustainable economic growth.
- The provision of infrastructural services such as water, electricity, and communication infrastructure in settlements which support a functional settlement pattern (hierarchy of settlements).
- The provision of social infrastructure such as schools and health facilities, but also the upgrading of these facilities and provision of municipal infrastructure insofar as it is lacking at many of these facilities. The provision of social facilities is key development determinants to shape the future spatial pattern (hierarchy of settlements).
- The stimulation of fewer but larger growth points and population concentrations which would inevitably result in the concentration of consumer spending power, which could in turn stimulate economic development in these priority development nodes.

- The effective utilisation of idle (scarce) resources such as agricultural land (e.g. high potential agricultural land) and minerals to the optimum benefit of local communities.
- The ability of provincial government, but also local and district municipalities to implement an effective intervention strategy to establish a functional spatial (settlement) development pattern (hierarchy of settlements).
- Aids could be an important factor impacting on the future spatial development of the Limpopo Province. It will impact directly on the provision of physical (municipal), as well as social infrastructure, not to even mention the impact it will have on economic development in the province.
- Migration of people, who voluntarily move out of the province to other provinces such as the metropolitan area (being the Gauteng province). This is an existing process and is likely to continue because of the lack of economic development and employment opportunities in the Limpopo Province.

11.3.4. CONCLUSION

Some of the key development determinants (factors) for future development in the Limpopo Province can be summarised as follows:

- Land (e.g. availability of land, ownership of land and the use of land);
- Population (e.g. distribution and concentration of population – settlement hierarchy, growth of the population, migration and the impact of illegal immigration, etc);
- Social infrastructure and social factors (e.g. provision of social facilities such as education and health, welfare initiatives, the provision of housing, AIDS/HIV virus, and the perception and traditions of people with specific reference to tradition and customs, specifically in the tribal areas);
- Physical infrastructure (e.g. roads, transportation, provision of water and sewerage, electricity, telecommunication, etc.); and
- Institutional infrastructure (capacity of local government structures, legislation and policy formulation).

The economic potential of areas to support the creation of economically viable communities/settlements would ultimately provide the basis and be one of the most important impacting factors in the future development of the province.

It can be concluded that specific intervention by all levels of government to address key problem areas, will be required to establish a more balanced spatial development pattern for the province with an integrated settlement hierarchy.

11.4. FACTORS IMPACTING ON THE ECONOMY OF THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE

11.4.1. INTRODUCTION

This section of the report provides some overview (perspective) on relevant factors that at present do, and those factors that may in the future have an impact on the economic activities practiced in the Limpopo Province.

This perspective is important for the purposes of this project as these economic activities together with their scale and the level of intensity, determine the direction and the monetary value of the economy of the Limpopo Province. In the final instance it has a direct impact on the structure and dynamics of the economic space. These factors determine (or influence) the provincial economy in terms of its structure (sectoral), monetary value and the spatial locations.

The total extent of the impacting factors is largely a function of the purpose of the project or investigation. In a macro debate as is the case with this project, the problem exists that the list of impacting factors may almost become “open-ended”, which implies that nearly all factors impact to some degree on all issues. Such an open-ended approach, however, will serve very little purpose and

therefore the approach[1] adopted here was to identify only those factors that have a direct impact on the particular issue.

With the Spatial Rationale (1999) a model was used to identify and categorise the impacting factors. The architecture of that model was based on a functional hierarchy, starting off from the aggregate economy to particular commodities and the concept of demand and supply. Based on the model which was followed with the discussion in the Spatial Rationale (1999), it was decided that for the purposes of the review of the Spatial Rationale only to focus on the so-called "macro factors" which impact on the aggregate (national and provincial) economy. The area specific economic issues (and commodities) should be addressed in the integrated development plans (IDP's) compiled for local and district municipality areas.

11.4.2. MACRO FACTORS IMPACTING ON THE AGGREGATE ECONOMY

The factors over which the Limpopo Province can exercise very little or no control was considered "national aggregate factors". On the other hand those factors that are largely determined and controlled by the Limpopo Province are listed and described as "provincial specific factors".

(a) National aggregate factors (national economy)

The most important factors to impact on the national economy are briefly described, namely:

- Globalisation (Trade Policy)

[1] Even with this approach some factors impact more directly than others do. As an example, legislation and policies on agriculture (e.g. the general and institutional factors) impact "indirectly", where as water and soil types impact "directly" on agriculture.

Global integration (globalisation) can be described as the process by which markets and production in different countries are becoming increasingly interdependent. Since the 1994 elections South Africa (has officially) become part of the international economic community. These changes brought about by globalisation made it more important for exporters to monitor and adapt to these changes in order to establish and develop their market share. It also opened various markets for South Africa.

- Macro Economic Policy (The Growth, Employment and Redistribution Strategy - GEAR)

  The economic objectives with GEAR include primarily, GDP growth, inflation (CPI), new jobs created per year and current account deficit (percentage of GDP).

  GEAR also has main elements dealing with specific policies (e.g. fiscal, monetary, social, employment, etc.) which have an important influence on the success rate with the implementation of GEAR. GEAR had a difficult time up to date, as amongst others the number of jobs in the formal sector has decreased.

- Industrial Policy

  The Government has initiated a change from the former "Import Replacement Policy" to "Export Promotion".

  Four nodes in the Limpopo Province were identified to qualify as locations for the Tax Holiday Scheme (THS) and Small, Medium Manufacturing Development Programme (SMMDP), viz.:

  - ⇨ Phalaborwa;
  - ⇨ Tzaneen;
  - ⇨ Thohoyandou; and
  - ⇨ Polokwane.

Polokwane was also identified as in Industrial Development Zone (IDZ) by the Dept. of Trade and Industry.

- Small and Medium size Business

  The provincial economic development strategy has already indicated that a meaningful part of the economic drive in the Limpopo Province will have to come from the micro and small size industries in the province. This policy is also supported by the SMMDP.

- Employment and Labour Relations
- The budget for the specific financial year (national)

(b) Provincial aggregate factors (provincial economy)

The most important factors which influence the provincial economy are the following:

- Income levels (disposable income)

  Aggregate income determines the levels of disposable income and therefore the demand for final goods and services. This includes both income earned from the formal and the informal sectors in the province. The provincial economy will therefore also determine opportunities for economic development on local level (e.g. municipal areas and/or settlements). Local economic development is also directly influenced by the levels of disposable income as it determines the demand for goods and services. The current and future prospects to increase these levels of income (in real terms) are very important for meaningful economic development.

- The Resource Base

The resource base, referring particularly to agriculture (e.g. productivity of soils, grazing capacity) the availability of water and the occurrences of mineral commodities, all determine the scope of economic possibilities.

- Labour

  This aspect deals with average wages paid for skilled and unskilled labour.

- Infrastructure

  Service infrastructure is very important for economic development. The lack of service infrastructure or specific types of service infrastructure can have a very negative impact on economic development. The most important types of infrastructure are, roads, air transport, rail transport, electricity, water and telecommunication. The provision and availability of the above-mentioned infrastructure is a cause for concern for economic development, although the impact and also the quality of these services vary from area to area in the province. Water for example is a major cause for concern as the province can be considered as "water poor " and it can be expected that water will become increasingly scarce as the population size increases. Inter-basin transfer schemes already exist to alleviate water shortages in particular basins/areas.

- The budget for the specific financial year for the Limpopo Province.

11.5. SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK OBJECTIVES

The formulation of a Spatial Development Framework, being a **macro spatial plan** for the Limpopo Province and its municipalities requires some statement on the spatial development objectives which guided the formulation of the macro spatial plan and hierarchy of settlements.

The main objective with the provincial SDF was to formulate a spatial framework which would guide and encourage equitable distribution of investment in terms of a functional settlement hierarchy, to achieve

spatially balanced development across the Limpopo Province and support investment in sustainable settlements.

Other spatial development objectives which guided the formulation of the macro spatial plan as well as policy and strategy formulation for implementation are:

- The review and confirmation of the hierarchy of settlements (both towns and villages) by establishing an optimal and functional spatial pattern for districts and thus the Limpopo Province over time;
- Rationalize and promote the optimal use of land and protection of natural resources by taking into account high/moderate potential agricultural areas, high/moderate environmental sensitivity areas and mining/mineral deposit areas as well as other relevant factors;
- The establishing of a functional spatial pattern with a hierarchy of settlements which provides a sound basis for long term sustainable economic growth to amongst others increase income and employment in both the formal and informal sectors in urban, as well as rural areas;
- Provide guidelines for the development of transportation and utility networks to strengthen the functional linkages between settlements in terms of a hierarchy of settlements; and
- The successful integration of planning on macro (national and provincial) level and micro (district and local municipality) level.

Secondary objectives pertaining to the Environmental aspects and Agricultural potential of soils, namely:

The objectives of adding an environmental perspective to the spatial framework are:

To ensure that resources in the province are used to their fullest potential in promoting, protecting and managing a sustainable environment;
To include information contained in available databases to assist with decision making at strategic and project level assist in decision-making;

To identify areas with high, moderate and low environmental sensitivity in order to assist with the correct placement of proposed developments from a strategic perspective;
To ensure that environmental issues are identified and adequately addressed from the early planning phases and mitigated to an acceptable level; and
To determine the environmental approach and studies needed for proposed developments in the different sensitivity areas.

The objectives of the agricultural potential analysis of soils in the Limpopo Province are:

To provide for the use and preservation of agricultural land, especially high potential agricultural land by means of a soil potential map for the Limpopo Province and prescribe criteria (guidelines) in terms of which agricultural land may be used for purposes other than agriculture in collaboration with principles as laid down in the Development Facilitation Act, 1995 (Act No. 67 of 1995) and also in collaboration with the Land Use Bill, 2001;
To assist individuals (farmers, consultants) or groups (municipalities) who consider applying for a change of land use from agricultural to non-agricultural uses;
To further refine the current guidelines created by Schoeman (2004) concerning prime or unique agricultural land. Definite soil potential classes will be identified and mapped and will assist in future land-use planning;
To create a workable soil potential map for each district municipality with regards to development in specific development nodes (municipal growth points) and areas outside the nodes. This map will be specific for each district and should also form the basis for SDF's of local municipalities; and
To develop a set of prescribed guidelines for each soil potential class identified and mapped earlier, with specific reference to development nodes like growth points. The guidelines shall relate to the importance of the continued use of those agricultural resources for agricultural purposes in general particularly taking into consideration the use of high potential agricultural land or its agricultural importance relative to the particular area or node. Different criteria may be prescribed from time to time and such criteria may differ.

11.6. CONCLUSION

The problem areas which have been identified reflect the present situation, in the district municipality area. Many of these problems are also associated with the large number of small in all of the municipal areas scattered throughout the district municipality area, with no economic base. This situation is likely to deteriorate rather than to improve if the status quo is maintained. **It is not expected that any meaningful change in the existing spatial pattern is possible without specific intervention to establish a more optimal and functional spatial pattern over time in terms of the hierarchy of settlements.**

CHAPTER 12: LIMPOPO PROVINCE SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

12.1. INTRODUCTION

In this chapter development of the growth points (3 categories) and population concentration points as identified in the Limpopo Spatial Rationale, 2002 and indicated in Paragraph 5.3 of Section 1: Relevant information on Existing Development Situation, will carefully be reviewed in terms of the environmental sensitivity, agricultural potential as well as mineral resources and mining.

According to the settlement hierarchy as defined in 2002, Limpopo Province consists of 17 provincial growth points, 20 district growth points, 37 municipal growth points and 62 population concentration points.

The growth points, population concentration points and local service points will be reviewed. The various local and district Spatial Development Frameworks where available (please see Table 5.3 of Section 1: Relevant information on existing development situation) will also be incorporated into this review. Please take note that where an urban edge for a town has been identified in the Local Spatial Development Framework it will be indicated as the borders for the node, but insofar as no Local SDF exist or was received the borders of the node will have no significant meaning and is merely an indication of where the specific node is situated.

12.2. FACTORS INFLUENCING DEVELOPMENT OF NODES

As mentioned the status and development potential of all the growth points, population concentration points and local service points, the influence of environmental sensitivity, agricultural potential and minerals and mining on these nodes will be addressed. It is very important to note that these factors influencing the development in and around these nodes have been dealt with on a macro level and that detail information on these factors should be accounted for in the different district and local SDF's.

12.3. GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING DEVELOPMENT SUITABILITY ACCORDING TO ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY AND SOIL POTENTIAL CLASSES

12.3.1. EXPLANATORY NOTES WITH REGARDS TO SENSITIVITY / SOIL POTENTIAL MAPS & MATRIX

The environmental sensitivity / agricultural potential classes identified for specific development sites on the maps will be determined by the actions described in the matrix below. For each specific sensitivity / soil potential class specific explanatory notes give a clear indication regarding development nodes and areas outside nodes.

12.3.1.1. High Potential soils / high sensitivity environmental areas

High sensitivity / high potential agricultural areas are NOT necessarily "no-go" development zones due to a combination of factors that were identified during the analysis and mapping of the specific classes. For example, high sensitivity areas were often identified according to a specific farm being classified as red data species habitat by the Environmental Potential Atlas of South Africa. Therefore on a macro-scale the habitat of the species were not taken into consideration but only the farm boundaries. Subsequently areas other than the red data species habitat will be available for development, but only after the actions described in the matrix are strictly followed for the specific environmental sensitivity / agricultural potential class. The development of a Spatial Development Framework for the local municipalities will classify these areas on a smaller, more accurate scale, although at the provincial macro-scale it would not be considered a viable option.

Areas inside development nodes:

Areas with a high sensitivity / high soil potential inside development nodes where a definite policy regarding development zones have been adopted can be developed provided that the actions stipulated inside the matrix are followed.

Areas outside development nodes:

Areas outside proposed development nodes should be approached in a stricter way, although the actions within the matrix for high sensitivity / high potential classes will still be needed. The Spatial Development Framework of a local municipality should give a clearer indication if such areas that will be suitable for development, for example areas identified for tourism.

12.3.1.2. Moderate Potential soils / moderate sensitivity environmental areas

These moderate sensitivity / soil potential areas should be handled as follows:

Moderate potential / sensitivity areas inside development nodes should be preferred areas for development compared to high potential / sensitivity areas inside nodes.
Limited development in areas outside nodes, while areas inside nodes could be developed based on close proximity to towns/ villages (inside development nodes). The actions described in the matrix should however be strictly followed.

12.3.1.3. Low Potential soils / low sensitivity environmental areas

These areas should be considered as preferred development areas inside development nodes compared to moderate / high potential sensitivity / soil potential classes. Unlimited development can be supported in these areas whether inside or outside nodes, although areas outside nodes will be evaluated on a stricter basis with regards to density of developments, type of developments (e.g. eco-estates) etc. Local municipality SDF's will give a clearer indication in this regard.

Matrix of guidelines indicating the specific soil potential / environmental sensitivity classes

	Agricultural Potential	**Environmental Sensitivity**	
High Potential	1. Detailed soil survey and analyses by registered soil scientist. The following should be included: • Soil profile analyses (including depth) • Soil catena for each specific land type on site 2. Soil analyses by registered soil laboratory indicating the soil physical and chemical characteristics. The following should be analyzed for: • Soil pH • Resistance • Clay content • N,P, K, Mg and Ca 3. Analyses by an agricultural economist indicating the agricultural viability of the land as high potential arable land. Aspects such as fertilizer application under dryland conditions should be addressed. 4. Slope analysis 5. Site visit by regional officer of the Department of Agriculture 6. Soil map and soil sensitivity map with regards to specific development zones. Photographic guide on the soil profiles or	1. Detailed ecological surveys (including a flora and fauna survey and river health analysis by a specialist) a registered qualified specialist on all aspects of the natural environment. The survey should preferably be conducted under summer survey conditions, although it depends on the general state of the site. Any red data species observed on site should be mapped and buffer zones should be provided to mitigate deleterious edge effects. Protected tree species should be preserved. A long-term monitoring programme should be implemented on site in such a case. 2. An independent, suitably qualified individual must act as environmental control officer and do a site visit. 3. Maps to be included in the report should be as follows: • Vegetation Map • Sensitivity Map (including a description of sensitivity mapping rules) • Buffer zone map for red data species 4. Photographic guide of the site and vegetation characteristics	**High Sensitivity**

	general soil characteristics		
Moderate potential	1. A desktop study indicating the following aspects: • Landtype maps • Soil and geology description • General description of soils in the area • Landuse on the farm and general surrounding area • Site visit by regional officer of the Department of Agriculture with the consultant to confirm the soil potential as moderate. 2. Photographic guide to indicate the soil and general topography of the area.	1. A **site visit** by a qualified botanist [at least BSc (hons) in plant ecology or botany] and preferably a qualified environmental officer which would indicate the following: • Photographs of the site and its related vegetation communities • A plant species list indicating the degraded state of the vegetation (indicator species) • A vegetation map of the site, if any natural vegetation is found on the site, a full survey of the area should be conducted. Such an area should receive high priority as a public open space. 2. Rehabilitation plan for the site, would it be deemed necessary, after site inspection. 3. If any protected plant species occur on site, such as marula, they should be preserved, while all exotics should be eradicated. 4. Floodline determination of drainage areas, with mitigation measures.	**Moderate Sensitivity**
Low Potential	Unlimited development can be supported on site, although a letter from the regional officer of the Department of Agriculture should confirm the site as low potential.	Unlimited development can be supported provided that an officer from Department of Environmental Affairs does a site visit with the consultant.	**Low Sensitivity**

12.4. LIMPOPO PROVINCE SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The different district municipal areas as well as the local municipal areas within these district municipal areas have been discussed in detail.

Please refer to the different district specific documents.

CHAPTER 13: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT HIERARCHY

13.1. INTRODUCTION

The Spatial Rationale (dated 1999 and reviewed in 2002) proposed a settlement hierarchy based on available information at the time and also by applying specific criteria for the identification of priority development nodes (e.g. growth points and population concentration points). The purpose of this revision of the Spatial Development Framework is to evaluate the settlement hierarchy and update the hierarchy in terms of the Provincial and District/Local Municipality boundary changes, new information, policies and legislation as well as additional evaluation criteria that were not available during the compilation of the initial Spatial Rationale, or the 2002 review for the province.

The general approach with the identification of a settlement hierarchy remained virtually unchanged. Specific changes to the hierarchy had to be made to accommodate factors or circumstances which changed since the compilation of the Spatial Rationale, 2002 and also after the environmental, agricultural, mineral and mining factors have been brought into consideration.

This section will outline the approach followed with the revision of the hierarchy of settlements and also provide more detailed information on the settlement hierarchy proposed for the Limpopo Province, district municipalities and local municipalities.

13.2. HIERARCHY OF SETTLEMENTS

Approach followed with the identification of a settlement hierarchy:

A settlement hierarchy is usually based on the **classification of individual settlements**[2] (e.g. towns and villages). This would mean that the approximately 2471 towns and villages in the Limpopo Province would have been individually classified in terms of a proposed hierarchy. Polokwane would have been the highest order settlement with second order settlements such as Mokopane, Thohoyandou, Tzaneen, Makhado, etc. Third order settlements would have included places such as Giyani, Lebowakgomo, possibly Jane Furse, etc.

Fourth order settlements would have included larger isolated settlements such as Elandsfontein, Van der Merweskraal, Bakenberg, Moganyaka, etc. with the fifth and last order settlements being all the villages which are relatively small, and dispersed throughout the various districts, with no economic base at all.

This approach, if applied on a provincial or district level, would have resulted in a very detailed classification categorising all the individual towns and villages in terms of the relevant order in a five-tier hierarchy. The outcome of this approach would have been a very scattered and complicated settlement hierarchy. A number of criteria are used for the classification of settlements in terms of a hierarchy and it must be appropriate for a classification, which is usable on all the relevant planning levels. The levels of planning vary from macro level (e.g national or provincial) to more detail planning levels being district and local municipality areas.

A total of approximately 2471 settlements (e.g. towns and villages) exist in the Limpopo Province, and are scattered throughout large parts of the province, although villages are primarily isolated to the former homeland areas.

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[2] For the purposes of this classification and the Spatial Development Framework, settlement is defined to include all types of settlements (e.g. proclaimed towns and rural villages).

The location of settlements in the province reflects a distinctive settlement pattern in many areas. Some of the settlements are grouped or located relatively close to each other, with a substantial number of people residing in these "settlement groups". It was, therefore, decided that for the purposes of the spatial development framework (which is a macro spatial planning exercise) to opt for the **identification of settlement clusters** (e.g. nodes where mainly larger settlements are located relatively close to each other) as being the priority development areas. The highest order settlements in the settlement hierarchy are, therefore, mainly settlement groups (clusters) although individual settlements, especially with the existence of larger towns, are also included in the first and second order of the settlement hierarchy.

The settlement clusters which have been identified (both growth points and population concentrations) include towns and/or villages, and in most instances the larger villages have smaller villages adjacent or between them, and for purposes of the cluster identification they are included to be part and parcel of the proposed individual clusters.

It was also considered appropriate that the status of towns and villages in terms of their proclamation be regarded as less important to the settlement hierarchy. The reason being that proclaimed towns are not necessarily first order (growth points) or second order (population concentrations) and, therefore, proclamation cannot be taken as a norm for the categorisation of these towns in terms of the proposed hierarchy.

Having said that the spatial rationale is a macro spatial planning exercise, it is still very important that the macro planning interfaces with the municipal planning (being the integrated development planning on district and local municipality level) and for this reason a hierarchy is proposed which is not only appropriate but applicable to both the macro (in this instance provincial planning) and the local (municipal) level planning initiatives, such as the Integrated Development Plans (IDPs). The proposed settlement hierarchy and the terminology used to describe the various categories of the hierarchy takes cognisance of existing legislation and policies which influence spatial planning on all government levels. Furthermore, the proposed hierarchy is flexible enough to also enable the classification of settlements in district and local municipal areas. Some flexibility is required due to the fact that the settlement pattern differs from district to district. Waterberg District Municipal area for example differs in many respects from the settlement pattern in the Sekhukhune District Municipal area, which is mainly rural with scattered villages situated on primarily communally owned land.

The proposed settlement hierarchy is as follows:

⇨ **First Order Settlements (Growth Points) [GP]**

Growth points are further divided into three categories, viz.:

- Provincial Growth Point [PGP];
- District Growth Point [DGP]; and
- Municipal Growth Point [MGP].

⇨ **Second Order Settlements (Population Concentration Points) [PCP]**

⇨ **Third Order Settlements (Local Service Points) [LSP]**

⇨ **Fourth Order Settlements (Village Service Areas) [VSA]**

⇨ **Fifth Order Settlements (Remaining Small Settlements) [SS]**

Settlement clusters therefore indicate priority development areas/nodes in which primarily first order (three types of growth points) and second order settlements (population concentration points) are identified. **Growth points** are therefore the highest order in the settlement hierarchy, with **Population Concentration Points** being the second order in the proposed settlement hierarchy.

The individual settlement categories in the proposed settlement hierarchy are described and explained in the following section.

First order settlements (Growth Points) are individual settlements (e.g. towns/villages) or a group of settlements located relatively close to each other where meaningful economic, social and institutional activities, and in most instances a substantial number of people are grouped together.

These growth points seem to have a natural growth potential but some do not develop to their optimum potential due to the fact that capital investments are made on an ad hoc basis without any long-term strategy for the growth point and/or the area as a whole.

All three categories classified as growth points should be stimulated according to their status in the hierarchy by amongst others providing higher levels of service infrastructure, also to ensure that appropriate services are available for potential business and service/light industrial concerns. Higher levels of services, which reflect these growth points' status in terms of the settlement hierarchy, and therefore relative to other settlements in the area, will also attract residential development to these growth points with the implication that certain threshold values in population be reached to provide for higher levels of social, physical, institutional and economic services.

The three categories of growth points are described in terms of their relative importance (priority) in the proposed hierarchy:

- **Provincial growth point (PGP)**. A provincial growth point is the highest order in the hierarchy and therefore also the most important type of growth point. All the PGPs have a sizable economic sector providing jobs to many local residents. They have a regional and some a provincial service delivery function, and usually also a large number of social facilities (e.g. hospitals, tertiary educational institutions). All of them have institutional facilities such as government offices as well as local and/or district municipal offices. The majority of these provincial growth points also have a large number of people. Provincial Growth points include settlements such as Polokwane/Seshego (which can also be classified as a national growth point in terms of a country wide classification), Mokopane/Mahwelereng, Bela-Bela/Warmbaths, Makhado (Louis Trichardt), Thohoyandou, etc.;

- **District growth point (DGP)**. These growth points already have a meaningful economic sector with some job creation, various higher order social facilities such as hospitals and/or health centres, and some accommodate tertiary educational institutions. Most of these district growth points also have regional government offices and in many instances also district and/or local municipal offices. Most of the district growth points have a large number of people grouped together. District Growth Points include settlements such as Mankweng, Thulamahashe, Lebowakgomo, Dendron, Namakgale, etc.

- **Municipal growth point (MGP)**. In terms of the various categories of growth points the municipal growth points have a relatively small economic sector compared to the district, but more specifically the provincial growth points. Municipal growth points serving mainly farming areas often have a sizable business sector providing a meaningful number of job opportunities. These growth points usually also have a few higher order social and institutional activities. In most instances these growth points also have many people. With a MGP such as Northam for example, the emphasis is on the economic sector (e.g. business and mining activities in the area) with a relative small number of people, and a large farming community which is served by the growth point. In traditional rural areas with villages the economic sector is relatively small with only a few local businesses, but a substantial number of people. They usually exhibit a natural growth potential if positively stimulated. Municipal Growth Points include settlements such as Haenertsburg, Rebone, Roedtan, Tafelkop/Motetema, etc.

Second order settlements (Population Concentration Points [PCP]). Are individual settlements (e.g. towns/villages) or a group of settlements located close to each other which have a small or virtually no economic base, meaningful social and often some institutional activities, but a substantial number of people located at these settlements. In most instances the population concentration points form part of a settlement cluster which also has one or more growth point within the cluster. These population concentration points are mainly located adjacent to tarred roads or intersections of main district roads which provide accessibility to job opportunities elsewhere.

These nodes should also be given priority in terms of infrastructure provision with a high level of services, although not at the same level as for growth points. This approach should be followed to attract people from smaller villages in the area with a lower level or no service infrastructure.

Third order settlements (Local Service Points [LSP]). These third order settlements exhibit some development potential based on population growth and/or servicing function potential, although most of them only have a very limited or no economic base. Most of these settlements (specifically in the traditional rural areas) have 5000 people or more, and do not form part of any settlement cluster. Most of these settlements are relatively isolated in terms of surrounding settlements. Only in a few instances have two or more settlements, which are in very close proximity to each other, been grouped together and classified as a local service point. The potential for self-sustained development growth is limited by the lack of development opportunities in or in close proximity to these settlements. Most of these settlements can also be distinguished from lower order

(fourth and fifth order settlements) mainly because of their size and servicing functions. Some of these third order settlements have established government and/or social services.

Fourth order settlements (Village Service Areas [VSA]). This category of settlements in the settlement hierarchy has been identified to allow for circumstances in mainly traditional rural areas where three or more settlements are located in such a way that they are interdependent or linked together by means of specific social infrastructure (e.g. clinic, secondary school). The group of settlements are usually mutually dependent on these facilities. These settlements are small and have usually less than 1000 people per village.

Although the Provincial settlement hierarchy identified and described this category of settlements, they are not identified in terms of the macro spatial planning that is being done on provincial level. It is expected that local and district municipalities should embark on a process in conjunction with the relevant communities to identify settlement groupings, which may fall into this fourth tier of the settlement hierarchy as proposed, and that they be included as such in the Local and District Spatial development Frameworks.

Fifth order settlements (Small Settlements [SS]). This category includes all those settlements, mainly rural villages, which are not included in the previous 4 categories of the settlement hierarchy. For the purposes of the macro spatial plan the fourth order settlements have also been included into this category. These settlements are categorised together because by far the majority are very small (less than 1000 people) and are rural settlements which are only functioning as residential areas with no economic base. The potential for future self-sustainable development of these settlements is also extremely limited, but mostly non-existent.

PRIORITY NODES (First and Second Order Settlements)

All the first and second order settlements in the former R.S.A. [e.g. Polokwane, Tzaneen, Phalaborwa, etc.] are already well developed with a reasonably strong economic base, although varying from town to town. Some of the towns and villages in the former homeland areas have an inherent development potential and growth momentum as result of the existence of an economic and/or resource base. These settlement clusters (or at least individual settlements in these clusters) in the former homeland areas are, therefore, also considered to be self sustaining growth centres servicing a surrounding resource base area. The settlement is internal to its resource base, or a resource base area, which is geographically separated (external resource base). Usually the latter group of towns and/or villages are mainly dormitory towns and villages for the economic area they serve.

The development of first and second order settlements (previously in the former homeland areas), is very important since they exhibit an inherent growth momentum and are extremely important in the urbanisation process, as well as giving momentum to the establishment of a rural-urban balance.

The proposed hierarchy provides a development framework for the establishment of a more optimal spatial pattern for the Waterberg District to provide social facilities and service infrastructure on a more cost-effective basis. It is also envisaged that the proposed hierarchy of settlements would be served with different levels of social and service infrastructure.

13.3. CRITERIA USED FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF SETTLEMENT CLUSTERS AND A SETTLEMENT HIERARCHY

The following criteria played a very important role in the identification of settlement clusters and also in the identification of **growth points and population concentration points**, viz.:

- Population size (concentration of relatively large numbers of people);
- Population density, being the number of people per hectare per settlement;
- Settlements or a group of settlements which are located close to each other. Smaller settlements have been included where they functionally may form part of the settlement cluster and therefore the growth point/s or population concentration within such a settlement cluster;
- The location of individual settlements or group of settlements w.r.t. main arterials (e.g. provincial or main district roads) which are usually tarred roads. All the settlements are not directly adjacent to these main roads or intersections of main district roads. Settlements which are within close proximity to these roads have in some instances also been included;
- The location of existing health infrastructure such as clinics, but more specifically health centres and hospitals. Clinics are situated throughout rural areas, often in small settlements. Growth points and many of the population concentrations have higher order health facilities or have more than one clinic situated in the population concentration;

- The location of tertiary educational facilities. These facilities are usually located in higher order nodes such as growth points and sometimes in population concentration points.
- Although primary and secondary schools occur throughout the district municipality consideration was given to the location of these schools in the identified growth points and population concentrations. Most of these nodes have a significant number of primary and secondary schools located within the cluster area;
- The location of government offices, as well as local municipality and district municipality offices were considered with the identification of priority development nodes. By far the majority of these office functions are situated within growth points or population concentrations. Provincial and regional office functions are, however, within the identified growth points;
- Existing and potential future economic activities such as businesses, mining and/or tourism potential and activities in or in close proximity of these development clusters have also played an important role in the identification of clusters with growth points and population concentrations within these settlement clusters;
- The existing and proposed industrial clusters and development corridors;
- The way in which the development of the settlement is influenced by factors such as agricultural potential, environmental sensitivity and mineral and mining occurrences; and
- The availability of water (both bulk and internal reticulation) has been considered to some extent in the identification of the proposed hierarchy of settlements. The present levels of internal water supply (in terms of RDP standards) have been investigated and were considered with the identification of settlement clusters, but to a lesser extent. Furthermore, the availability of bulk water supply over the short to longer term has also been considered, but generally not regarded as a disqualifying factor. In some of the local municipal areas the water supply levels are so low that if it is used as a key element for evaluation no meaningful nodes can be identified as growth points or significant population concentrations for future development. The argument is also that if priority areas for future development are identified that special attention should be given to these nodal points to enable the upgrading of existing water supply levels to support development at these nodes. All the growth points and population concentration points should,

however, be prioritised on local as well as district municipality level to guide decision-making on large infrastructural investment programmes (e.g. bulk water supply schemes, etc.).

With the prioritisation of nodes (e.g. growth points and population concentration points) bulk water supply projects, other infrastructural projects and to some extent social infrastructure should be aligned with the programme for upgrading of bulk water supply and internal water reticulation to priority nodes.

The above-mentioned criteria were applied as far as possible with the identification of the settlement hierarchy. Specific areas such as the Laphalale and Mogalakwena Local Municipalities in the Waterberg District Municipality, required special attention due to the unique circumstances in these local municipality areas. By far the majority of the settlements are relatively small and social and municipal infrastructure backlogs exist in the area.

The above-mentioned criteria were therefore applied less rigidly in the identification of an appropriate settlement hierarchy for these local municipality areas. In conclusion it can be stated that depending on the local circumstances these criteria were applied with some flexibility to accommodate the specific prevailing circumstances in an area.

Selected rural settlements (e.g. growth points and population concentrations) are likely to grow in terms of population size and local economic development. The population sizes together with local economic development potential will result in the natural growth of these settlements which in turn could form the basis for longer term sustainable growth and development. It is envisaged that growth and development of the selected identified priority development nodes (e.g. growth points and population concentration points) will ultimately result in a gradual decline of other smaller settlements in the rural areas. At present there is already a tendency for people to migrate from smaller settlements to larger settlements in the district or to neighbouring districts and even to other provinces.

13.4. SETTLEMENT HIERARCHY FOR FIVE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY AREAS IN THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE

The revised settlement hierarchy is indicated in detail on 5 district specific maps entitled “Spatial Development Framework (Review): Vhembe/Capricorn/Sekhukhune/Mopani/Waterberg District Municipality, 2007”. A

provincial map was also compiled, indicating the settlement hierarchy, but less detail information on supporting development factors.

The proposed settlement hierarchy is indicated on the District Municipality maps but also shows the following information:

- the settlement clusters with the proposed settlement hierarchy (e.g. provincial, district and municipal growth points, population concentration points, local service points and the remaining small settlements);
- settlement names with polygons (dated 2006) indicating the approximate size and location of individual settlements;
- local municipality, district municipality and provincial boundaries;
- important roads which includes main (tarred) roads, and important gravel roads;
- dams and rivers;
- corridor routes (e.g. strategic development initiatives/SDI's) and proposed development corridors for future spatial development;
- macro land-uses such as potential agricultural areas, environmental sensitivity areas, nature conservation areas, biospheres, mineral occurrences/mineral potential areas;
- social infrastructure such as schools (according to the various categories for primary or secondary schools);
- health facilities such as hospitals, health centres and clinics; and
- police stations and magistrate courts.

The provincial map only indicates some of the above-mentioned information, because of the smaller scale of the map.

The complete portfolio of information as presented on the district specific maps along with other criteria supports the proposed macro spatial plan (settlement hierarchy) for the Limpopo Province. It also reflects the criteria that was used for the identification of the settlement hierarchy (refer to Chapter 13.3).

A summary of the settlement hierarchy for the Limpopo Province with its District and Local Municipalities is presented in Table 13.1.

The settlement hierarchy for the province can be described as follows:

- the province has a total of **79 settlement clusters** as defined in Chapter 13.2 of this report;
- the 79 settlement clusters consist of 3 types of **growth points** and **population concentrations** which are also referred to as first and second order settlements in terms of the proposed settlement hierarchy. The number and type of first order settlements, being growth points, are the following:

  17 provincial growth points which include a total of 58 settlements. Most of the provincial growth points (6) are in the Waterberg District. It is followed by Mopani District with 4 provincial growth points;
  16 district growth points which include a total of 52 settlements. Only Waterberg District does not have a district growth point. Most of the district growth points (7) are in Mopani District. It is followed by Capricorn with 4 district growth points;
  38 municipal growth points which include a total of 124 settlements. All the districts have municipal growth points. Sekhukhune District has the most, with 9 municipal growth points (MGP's). It is followed by Capricorn and Vhembe with 8 MGP's each;
  There are a total of 69 growth points in the Limpopo Province. Most of the growth points are situated in the Mopani District [16 growth points] and is followed by Sekhukhune District and Vhembe District [14 growth points each]. Capricorn District have 13 growth points and Waterberg District have 12 growth point. Approximately **23% of the total population** reside in settlements which forms part of the 3 types of growth points mentioned above.

- The province also has a total of 56 population concentration points which accommodates approximately **30% of the total population** of the province. Capricorn District and Vhembe District [with 16 each] have most of the population concentration points (PCP's). It is followed by Sekhukhune District with 12 PCP's. Mopani District has 9 PCP's) and Waterberg District have the least with 5 PCP's each.

- In the 124 growth points and population concentration points (all situated in 86 settlement clusters) reside approximately **54% of the total population** of the Limpopo Province.
- The settlement hierarchy, and specifically the first order settlements (3 types of growth points) and second order settlements (population concentration points) reflects the following tendencies with respect to individual district municipality areas, viz.:

  Approximately 41% of the total population of Waterberg District Municipality are situated in growth points and population concentration points;
  Capricorn District Municipality has 57% of its total population residing in growth points and population concentration points;
  Sekhukhune District Municipality has 56% of its total population situated in growth points and population concentration points;
  Mopani District Municipality has 54% of its total population situated in growth points and population concentration points;
  Vhembe District Municipality has 55% of its total population situated in growth points and population concentration points;
  Another 6% of the total population in the Limpopo Province is situated in 105 settlements which are classified as Local Service Points (also refer to par. 13.2 for the description of this category of settlements);
  Only approximately 36% of the total population in the Limpopo Province is located in 4th and 5th order settlements (being village service areas and small settlements);
  The remaining 5% of the population is situated on commercial farms in the Limpopo Province.

The revised settlement hierarchy can be described as very functional as 54% of the total population resides in 684 settlements (growth points and population concentrations). It represents only 25% of the total number of settlements in the Limpopo Province. It is even more impressive if a similar calculation is being made w.r.t. only the growth points. Approximately 23% of the total provincial population resides in 231 settlements and represents only 8% of the total number of settlements in the province. The proposed settlement hierarchy therefore conforms with the relevant spatial development objectives as outlined in par. 11.6 of this report. Specific aspects regarding future

expansion and upgrading of these priority development nodes will, however, be addressed in the policy and strategy formulation section of this project.

A detail description of all the priority development nodes in the Limpopo Province is provided in Table 13.2. (5 District Municipality tables). It gives an overview of the development situation at first order (3 types of growth points), second order (population concentration points) and third order (local service points) settlements in district municipalities in the Limpopo Province area.

These priority development nodes are described per district municipality area with respect to the following:

- An "identification" name per settlement cluster (preliminary names have been allocated at this stage, as it will in time be finalised in conjunction with the relevant municipal authorities). An indication of the order of the settlement in terms of the hierarchy (e.g. provincial growth point, district growth point, municipal growth point, population concentration point and local service point);
- Population information being the year 2006 planning population of the Dept. of Water Affairs (Community Water Supply and Sanitation Study) and number of households;
- Settlement information indicating the total approximate area of all the individual settlements per cluster, as well as an indication of the population density (number of people per hectare per cluster) etc; and
- Social infrastructure located in the priority development nodes such as health facilities, tertiary educational facilities, police stations and magistrate courts, municipal buildings such as local municipalities, district municipality and government offices.

The above-mentioned information is, therefore, provided for individual clusters (consisting of growth points and/or population concentration points and local service points) as well as local service points for local municipalities per district municipality.

13.5. CONCLUSION

The revised settlement hierarchy is more functional in terms of its identification of settlements (and settlement clusters). A five (5) tier settlement hierarchy is more suitable for both macro spatial planning, as well as

integrated development planning on local municipal level. The proposed hierarchy also allows for some flexibility between provincial planning and municipal integrated development planning. It is envisaged that the hierarchy should be further refined over time as part of an interactive planning process where both a “top-down” and “bottom-up” planning approach is followed between the provincial government and the individual local and district municipalities. This refinement should be done within the scope of the spatial development framework (settlement hierarchy) which is proposed with this macro spatial plan for the Limpopo Province.

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SECTION 2: SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT DETERMINANTS

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