



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

---

OFFICE OF  
THE PREMIER

**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (R&D FRAMEWORK)**

**LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

FINAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

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## ACRONYMS

COGHSTA	Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs
DST	Department of Science and Technology
FET	Further Education and Training
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDP	Integrated Development Plans/Planning
IIDP	Integrated Industrial Development Programme
IKS	Indigenous Knowledge Systems
GAAL	Gateway Airport Authority Limpopo
GCIS	Government Communication Information System
LCGB	Limpopo Casino & Gambling Board
LED	Local Economic Development
LDP	Limpopo Development Plan
LIBSA	Limpopo Business Support Agency
LIIS	Limpopo Integrated Innovation Strategy
LIMDEV	Limpopo Economic Development Enterprise
LMMBI	Limpopo Mining and Minerals Beneficiation Initiatives
LRF	Limpopo Research Forum
LTP	Limpopo Tourism & Parks
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MMBI	Mining and Minerals Beneficiation Initiatives
NIS	National Innovation Systems
OTP	Office of The Premier



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LPR <sup>2</sup>	Limpopo Policy and Research Repository
RAL	Road Agency Limpopo
R & D	Research and Development
SALGA	South African Local Government Association
STATSSA	Statistics of South Africa
UL	University of Limpopo
UNIVEN	University of Venda

## DEFINITIONS

**Research and development:** Systematic activities of combining both basic and applied research, and aimed at discovering solutions to problems or creating new goods and knowledge.

**Indigenous Knowledge Systems:** Human experiences organized and ordered into accumulated knowledge to serve as a basis for local-level decision making in agriculture, health care, food preparation, education, and natural resource management.

**Research institutions:** An establishment endowed for doing basic and applied research.

**Academic institutions:** An educational institution dedicated to education and research, which grants academic qualifications.

**Sustainable livelihoods:** A livelihood comprises people, their capabilities and their means of living, including food, income and assets.

**Research collaboration:** The working together of researchers to achieve the common goal of producing new scientific knowledge and finding solutions to the problems.

**Partnership:** Tailored business/professional relationship based on mutual trust, openness, shared risk and shared rewards that results in business performance.

**Coordination:** The synchronization and integration of activities, responsibilities, and control structures to ensure that the resources are used efficiently in pursuit of the specified objectives.

**Research Agenda:** Research areas identified in order to meet major challenges faced by the Limpopo province.

**Research funding:** Funding to help fund research efforts made by individuals, universities and departments.

**Research Capacity Enhancement:** A structured, formal or informal relationship that provides relational and instrumental support which may focus on the education, understanding, and potential collaboration around research, research process, research idea development, designs, program evaluation, and data analysis.

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**Limpopo Policy and Research Repository:** A provincial web-based facility where relevant policy and research information and documents are deposited, stored and retrieved

**Monitoring and Evaluation:** the process of monitoring a program and evaluating the impact it has on the province and its citizen in order to assess the success and gaps in program implementation

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Research and Development (R&D) has been a strong driver of the new global economy, wealth creation and development. Economic growth and development literature confirm that research, development and technological progress are the basis for sustained economic growth and development. Substantially, the 2009 research report on Limpopo Integrated Innovation Strategy (LIIS) concludes that the development of LIIS is central to enhancing economic development of the Province. Thus research is an integral part of innovation.

The Provincial Government acknowledges the need to conduct and use research for planning, policy-making, intervention programmes and to evaluate the impact of these on the development and progress of the Province. Additionally, the Provincial Government also understands the importance of research development and innovation as drivers of economic growth and development and wants to use these vehicles for the development of the Province.

The Limpopo R&D Framework will make it possible for government units responsible for research to conceive systems, structures, processes and approaches that link with government economic growth and development strategies. It will also outline the systems, structures and processes to deal with research needs of government and the Province

## 2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Whilst the Provincial Government acknowledges and understands the importance of research and development, it is faced with a number of challenges such as the ones stated below:

- **Insufficient Research Capacity**

Government's own in-house research capacity is constrained in terms of lack of qualified human capital to conduct quality research. Piecemeal in-house research is often supplemented by costly research conducted by consultants (often contracted from outside the Province). Consultant reports are written in technical jargon that is difficult to understand. **Budget Constraints**



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Departments and municipalities often do not have a dedicated budget for research. It is therefore regarded as a supportive function and it always gets “left-overs” in terms of budget.

- **Research Systems and Structures**

The Province has a mammoth task in putting research systems and structures in place. There are systems and structures that have been put in place (e.g. guidelines and repository) to regulate research conducts and data dissemination of the national departments in the Province, national research councils, Provincial government departments, local government, academic institutions and other agencies operating in the research and development space of the Province. The system is still new and there is a lot of work that needs to be done.

- **Poor Coordination of Research**

Research is uncoordinated across government departments and other research agencies. These uncoordinated research efforts result in duplication of research and poor dissemination of research findings. The uncoordinated research efforts are also evident when researchers from several other countries and other external agencies frequently conduct research in the Province and whereby, such research processes are not monitored. These private initiated research processes are, often, conducted without permission and ethical clearance from Government and this puts the state security, natural resources and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) at jeopardy.

In order for the Province to overcome the challenges stated above, the 2009 Limpopo Integrated Innovation Strategy (LIIS) Report suggests that three separate groups (education institutions, especially institutions of higher learning, business and communities) should be directly responsible for delivery of R&D services. Additionally, Limpopo Government should take an active lead in stimulating and supporting its R&D functions by:

- i. having R&D strategy and policies which links with the economic, social and political growth and development plans and goals of the Province;
- ii. mobilizing educational institutions, business and communities to work with government to realize the growth and development goals of the Province;
- iii. encouraging and financially supporting the development and organization of structures and organizations involved in R&D;

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- iv. mobilizing national and international agencies to co-invest in Research and Development of the Province;
- v. promoting and encouraging R&D development in communities;
- vi. Setting in place simple, coherent structures and processes in the Province to deal expediently with R&D matters.

### **3. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE FRAMEWORK**

#### **3.1 The purpose of this framework is to:**

Enhance research systems, structures, functions, services and efforts of the Province through research management instruments in order to attain objectives laid out in the existing government policies and strategies. The R&D Framework will serve as an instrument to put in place systems, including their accompanying structures and processes which will assist Limpopo Government to:

- i. Prevent duplication and waste of resources by promoting collaborative research efforts between government , research and academic institutions as well as other stakeholders;
- ii. Ensure effective investments in research;
- iii. Effectively engage with external research and funding institutions and agencies; and
- iv. Mainstream research and development activities into provincial sectoral plans and activities.

#### **3.2 The main objectives of the framework are to:**

- i. Improve Provincial Government capacity to conduct research and to use it in both policy-making and planning;
- ii. Strengthen partnership between Government and the Local and international research institutions;



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- iii. Ensure better coordination, alignment and dissemination of research amongst all departments and municipalities of the Provincial Administration;
- iv. Develop standards and procedures for research and development in line with both national and international practices and trends (e.g. research guidelines); and
- v. Encourage community participation and involvement in research and development matters.

## **4. SCOPE OF APPLICATION**

It should be clear that research and development from a government's perspective have two dimensions. The first dimension deals with research that is required by government and the second dimension deals with the concept of Research and Development as a vehicle for economic growth and development and for the general improvement of the quality of life of Limpopo citizens. This Framework is thus designed to establish an approach towards coordinated government research, and to work closely with relevant stakeholders in research and development to attain the objectives laid out in important strategies and plans and programmes which are formulated or may be formulated in the future.

## **5. LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

This section will highlight major legislative and strategic mandates that promote the establishment of the research and development framework for the Province.

### **5.1 The Constitution, Act 108 of 1996**

As the supreme law of the country, the Constitution of 1996 provides legal foundation for the existence of the Republic and, inter alia defines the structures of Government of South Africa. Section 85 of the Constitution provides detail on the executive authorities of the President and the Cabinet Members. It states that the President and Cabinet Members should, inter alia, exercise executive authority in developing and implementing national policy and coordinating the functions of state departments and administration. Section 125 of the Constitution focuses specifically on the executive authority of Provinces. Section

125(1) states that the executive authority of a Province is vested upon the Premier of that Province.

According to sections 125(2) (d) & (e), the Premier and members of the Executive Council are responsible for developing and implementing provincial policy, as well as ensuring the implementation of national policies and the coordination of functions between the provincial departments. These functions include inter alia research, development & innovation of service delivery. The Premier and his office are also responsible for the implementation of Chapter 3 of the Constitution on cooperative governance and play a critical role in the development and implementation of the Provincial Growth and Development Plans. By implication, this places responsibility of the Office of the Premier to oversee and coordinate the development of transversal research, development and innovation initiatives to ensure the achievement of the LDP.

## **5.2 Science & Technology White Paper (1996)**

The White Paper was developed around the concepts of 'innovation and national systems of innovation'. Innovation has become a crucial survival issue for societies. A society that pursues well being and prosperity for its members can no longer treat innovation as an option. Additionally, innovation tends not to arise by itself; it is generated and sustained through the efforts of people. Innovation therefore comes from individuals and from creative and interactive communities. The Province therefore needs to work hard at creating an environment that is supportive of innovation to avoid circumstances where innovators will not innovate and leave for more encouraging Provinces.

The stimulation of a provincial system of innovation will be central to the empowerment of all citizens as they seek to achieve social, political, economic and environmental goals. The development of innovative ideas, products, institutional arrangements and processes will enable the Province to address more effectively the needs and aspirations of its citizens. This is particularly important within the context of the demands of global economic competitiveness, sustainable development and equity considerations related to the legacies of our past. A well-managed and properly functioning national system of innovation will make it possible for all citizens to enjoy the economic, socio-political and intellectual benefits of science and technology.



### **5.3 National Research Foundation Act 23 of 1998**

This Act provides for the promotion of research, both basic and applied; and the extension and transfer of knowledge in the various fields of science and technology and the indigenous technology. According to Section 3 of the National Research Foundation Act (Act No.23 of 1998), the main objective is to support and promote research through funding, human resource development and the provision of the necessary research facilities in order to facilitate the creation of knowledge, innovation and development in all fields of science and technology, including indigenous knowledge and thereby to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of all the people of the Republic.

### **5.4 Statistics Act 6 of 1999 and the South African Statistical Quality Assessment Framework (SASQAF)**

The Statistics Act (Act No.6 of 1996) mandates the Statistician-General to put a framework in place to enable evaluation of statistics collected by organs of state. SASQAF as a framework is in line with the United Nations Fundamental principles of Official Statistics, which means that there is a broad coherence with international best practice. It provides a framework and criteria for evaluating and certifying statistics produced by government departments and other organs of state and, in some circumstances, by non-governmental institutions and organisation. It effectively calls on producers of statistics to be transparent in informing users of the concepts, definitions, classifications, methodologies and frames used in collecting, processing and analyzing their data, as well as informing them on the accuracy of the data, and any other features that may affect the quality of the data or their "fitness for use".

### **5.5 South Africa's National R&D Strategy (August 2002)**

Science and technology is critical for the future of Limpopo and South Africa. Government recognizes the key role it plays in providing an enabling environment for innovation and research and in building the human capital that we require for the future knowledge economy. The objective of this strategy is to address these weaknesses in a profound but practical way. In particular, the approach is to apply internationally well-tested principles and systems that are adjusted to local realities and requirements. The strategy must be able to give expression to our national goals of economic development and improvement of quality of life for all citizens. The strategy identified three operational objectives:

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- i. Achieving mastery of technological change in the economy and society (innovation)
- ii. Increasing investment in South Africa's science base (Human Capital and Transformation)
- iii. Creating an effective government science and technology system (alignment and delivery).

### **5.6 The National Development Plan 2030 (2012)**

The National Development Plan (NDP) Vision 2030 is a plan that aims at shaping South Africa's development needs and priorities. Furthermore, the NDP provides a detailed outline of how poverty and inequality could be reduced and ultimately be eradicated by year 2030. The NDP also emphasise that South Africa needs to sharpen its innovative edge and continue contributing to global scientific and technological advancement. This requires greater investment in research and development, better use of resources, and more nimble institutions that facilitate innovation and enhanced cooperation between public service and technology institutions and private sector.

Research and development should be seen as the key drivers towards the implementation of the NDP in the province. The successes of the implementation of the NDP lies in solid research, sound evidence and clear and implementable recommendations hence research should be put at the centre. Research will advise the planners and policy makers in the province on issues such as poverty, inequality, unemployment and other cross-cutting issues that need interventions. Therefore, the Limpopo Government needs to work with broader communities such as private sectors, non-government organisation, and community based organisations to draw best practices and to understand developmental challenges of the province. There is also a need to collaborate and consult with academic and research institutions to address the targets and objectives of the NDP.

### **5.7 Limpopo Development Plan (LDP)**

The Limpopo Development Plan (LDP, adopted 2015), a strategy for the province has been put in place in order to enable the provincial administration to tackle challenges facing the province. This provincial plan aims at eradicating poverty



and inequality and also placing the economy of the province on a new growth path that is capable of delivering decent work and sustainable livelihoods on a scale that will enable the province to achieve the target of halving unemployment by 2020.

This LDP builds on the foundations of the Limpopo Economic Growth and Development Plan (LEGDP) 2009-2014 and the Limpopo Provincial Growth and Development Strategy (PGDS) 2004-2008. These strategies were reviewed in order to maintain positive momentum for development and to overcome shortcomings that were revealed during their implementation cycles.

Development is defined as broad-based improvements in the standard and quality of living of people throughout the Province, to which all institutions, including government, business, organised labour and citizens contribute. Annual growth in job creation, production and income, access to good public services and environmental management are the essential instruments or means to reach the goal of development. Although employment is a means to the end of objective in this development context, it must be emphasised that employment in itself plays a crucial role in the self-esteem and self-actualisation of people, enabling them to reach their full potential as human beings. Meaningful employment in the context of career development is therefore a key consideration throughout this LDP.

## **6. RESEARCH PRONOUNCEMENTS**

Research pronouncements are priorities and urgent matters deemed to be of critical importance at any particular time by the Executive Council of the Limpopo Province. It is the responsibility of departmental research units to integrate the pronouncements into the research agenda. However, in instances wherein research agendas have been endorsed and approved, research units shall ensure that the approved research agendas are amended accordingly. The implementation of such pronouncements shall be coordinated by the unit responsible for research in the Office of the Premier and undertaken by research units in respective sector departments.

## 7. ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND POWERS IN RESEARCH MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

<b>Authority/ Office</b>	<b>Research Agenda</b>	<b>Research Proposal/Projects</b>	<b>Implementing Research Findings/Reco mmendations</b>	<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>
Executive Authority	Contribute to research agenda through pronouncement	Might influence that certain projects be conducted depending on the needs of the Province	Oversee implementation of research recommendations depending on manifesto and mandate of the Government	Approves the review of the research and development framework and the amendments thereof
Accounting Officer	Contribute to research agenda through pronouncement	Recommend research projects depending on the needs, priorities and challenges of the Province	Oversee implementation of research recommendations as guided by the manifesto and mandate of Government	Approves the review of the research and development framework and the amendments thereof
Executive Managemen t/Senior Managemen t	Inputs into the research agenda  Recommend endorsement and approval of research agenda to Executive Authority	Recommend research project to Executive Authority  Facilitate the approval of research proposals at the Provincial research and research ethics committees	Implement research recommendations and findings in the areas of jurisdiction	Monitor and evaluate the approved research projects



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Research Unit/Directorate	Inputs in research agenda  Ensure the implementation of the research agenda by providing support to departments	Provide research support in the approval of research projects through departmental research and research ethics committees  Coordinate research functions and efforts of the province	Support departments in implementing research recommendations and findings in their areas of jurisdiction	Provide supports to research units and Executive Authority/Accounting Officer in monitoring & evaluation of research projects
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### 8. ALIGNING RESEARCH WITH SECTOR PLANS AND STRATEGIES, POLICY AND MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Research remains vital to planning, policy management, monitoring & evaluation and strategic planning processes in the Province. . To realise these processes, research should be at the centre of the functions of government.

- **Research and Strategic Planning**

Evidence-based strategic planning is critical as it shall create an enabling environment for developing policies, strategic plans and strategies that are sustainable in the Province. Integrating research into strategic planning functions will enable the Limpopo Province to build up credibility into planning and decision making processes. Utilising research in this regard will enhance the quality of service delivery initiatives. The role of research in strategic planning should be clearly emphasised through developing a practical integrated approach that will embrace both research and strategic planning components and at the same time providing ways on using research to map out strategic planning contexts of the Province.

- **Research and Policy**

Research-based evidence often plays a minor role in policy processes. Globally, research has contributed positively towards policy and practice arena; the Limpopo Province is not an exception to this evident global trend. The Limpopo Government has a role to play in ensuring that policy making processes of the

Province are well informed. This will ensure that the Province is moving towards evidence-based policy making. Evidence-based policy making in essence would mean that research needs to be conducted and its results be tested (e.g. through pilot cases) before reaching a consensus and making recommendations for policy and practice especially for policies that have impact on the lives of the people. It is therefore critical for the Limpopo Government to bridge the gap between research and policy functions. For instance, when the provincial policy agenda is developed, it should be informed by empirical evidence. Basically, empirical evidence will ensure that the Province will have responsive policy decisions. The Limpopo Government shall develop with a practical approach to maximize the influence of research on policy and practice.

- **Research and Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and research are closely related. M&E is done with an aim of establishing progress and milestones achieved on programs as well as deficits and challenges faced during the implementation of such programs. Research will provide guidance on how to overcome identified challenges and deficits. Additionally, because of the nature of M&E as a system to improve service delivery and identify gaps in programs and projects, research has to be conducted to provide empirical evidence to support interventions and alternative measures to address challenges and deficits as revealed through M&E processes. The Limpopo Government has both the M&E and Research components at a transversal level and departmental level. The challenge lies in integrating services and functions of these components. An approach should be developed on how the two functions can be integrated and how research should be seen as an integral part of M&E.

## **9. KEY DETERMINANTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE R&D FRAMEWORK**

The key determinants for the successful take off of the framework and the sustainability of research services and efforts of the Limpopo Province are discussed below:

### **9.1 Establishment of Research and Development Directorate**

The Office of the Premier (OTP) shall have a unit responsible for coordination of research functions and services in the Provincial Administration. The functions of the unit shall be to:

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- i. Coordinate and manage the implementation of the R&D Framework across the Province;
- ii. Facilitate and coordinate the development of the provincial research agenda;
- iii. Support the implementation and compliance of International, National, Provincial and Local Governments regulations, policies and procedures dealing with R&D matters;
- iv. Develop a R&D Strategy or Plan for the Province and ensure that it is revised regularly;
- v. Facilitate and manage the Limpopo Policy and Research Repository (LPR<sup>2</sup>);
- vi. Facilitate research collaborations between Provincial Administration and research institutions; and
- vii. Dissemination of research reports and findings

### **9.2 Provincial Research Agenda**

The provincial research agenda is defined as identified research areas to meet major challenges faced by the province. Those identified research areas are drawn on an annual basis by respective sector department. The research unit in OTP shall consolidate the research agenda from departments into a provincial research agenda. The departments shall be responsible for ensuring that those areas are researched on and the Office of the Premier shall coordinate such processes.

The objectives of the Provincial Research Agenda are to:

- (i) Ensure information sharing amongst departments;
- (ii) Promote inter-departmental collaborations in the Province;
- (iii) Integrate research agenda that have similar objectives to ensure that resources are utilized maximally and effectively; and
- (iv) Ensure research alignment with obtainable government policies and strategies



### **9.3 Establishment of Limpopo Research Forum (LRF)**

The Office of the Premier shall establish the Limpopo Research Forum (LRF) which shall serve as a multi-stakeholder forum that aims at catalysing networks among government departments, municipalities, academic and research institutions; and other stakeholders. The LRF's focus shall be on providing a conducive environment for research activities and collaborations to occur by advising and assisting government to develop relevant policies, systems, structures and processes for research and development.

The over arching objective (goal) of the Limpopo Research Forum (LRF) is to serve as an institutional coordination forum for partnerships and support for the use and production of high quality research in the province. Furthermore, the LRF shall operate as a mechanism for coordination and a platform for partnership related to the use and production of sound research outputs. It also serves as a forum for sharing best practices, lessons and experiences amongst various stakeholders in support of research in the province (for the co-ordination of the LRF refer to Annexure A).

### **9.4 Establishment of a Research Databank**

The Limpopo Government shall establish the Limpopo Policy and Research Repository (LPR<sup>2</sup>) which is a provincial policy and research databank. The LPR<sup>2</sup> shall deposit and store all the relevant policies and research reports and outcomes. The research and policy documents will basically be managed through the repository and the users will get advantage and privilege of retrieving all the relevant policies/policy instruments and research reports/outcomes. These documentations will support policy making, strategic and integrated planning and monitoring and evaluation functions in the Province. The repository will be linked to other institutional repositories across the country and internationally. This will result in information sharing and transfer and eventually this will ensure good governance and informed decision making in the Province.

### **9.5 Development of the Provincial Research Guidelines**

The Limpopo Provincial Government shall develop the Limpopo Provincial Research Guidelines to serve as navigations to assist, direct and guide Provincial Departments, National Departments in the Province, Parastatals and other stakeholders to conduct research that is credible, useful, responsive, valid and reliable. The research guidelines shall serve as a system put in place by the Limpopo Provincial Government to ensure common research approaches in the province. Substantially, the implementation of the system is dependent on the establishment of Provincial Research and Research Ethics Committees as well

as Departmental Research and Research Ethics Committees. The development and establishment of these research committees will be guided by the purpose and objectives as outlined in Annexure B: (Limpopo Provincial Research Guidelines). The research guidelines shall also put emphasis on the significance of research as a tool used to respond to the needs of the Limpopo community at large. It is through research ethics committees at both a provincial and departmental level that the communities are to be recognized as focal points of research. This will ensure that research is responsive to their needs and challenges (refer to Annexure B).

### **9.6 Establishment of Research Units in Provincial Departments and Municipalities**

All provincial departments need to establish Research and Development units. The respective departments' research units will be responsible for implementing research activities and projects at a departmental level. These departmental research units shall provide research and developments functions for their respective departments and also ensure that departmental research services and efforts are well coordinated and managed. The units will also develop departmental research agenda and allocate dedicated financial (budgets) and human resources for the progress of the units. The budgets would specify the funds allocated to self-directed strategic research within the broad mandate of the departments and the proportion allocated to service work for the relevant department. In this regard, each department will have an R&D plan that forms part of the Provincial R&D Strategy/Plan.

The department responsible for coordination of municipalities shall manage and facilitate the process of establishing research and development components and units in municipalities.

### **9.7 Development of R&D Strategy**

The real determinant of technology-driven socio-economic development is a sustained high level of research and development. It is therefore critical for the province to develop a provincial research and development strategy to put more efforts that will sufficiently address research gaps in the province. More importantly the strategy should transform the province into a community that is putting more research efforts in the planning realm. The province should be moved to a direction that will ensure that evidence based planning occurs, and that information generation and knowledge transfer is accelerated.



The envisaged strategy should be in a position to address research weaknesses in a practical way. In particular, the approach should be guided by international and national research trends and systems that could be adopted at the provincial level and be contextualised to meet the needs of the province. The strategy must be able to give expression to national outcomes and provincial priorities that are geared towards improving the quality of life of all the provincial citizens.

### **9.8 Facilitate Research Collaboration in the Province**

Close collaboration is required with government's key R&D driver, higher education institutions, funding agencies, foundations, Science Councils, private industry and other organisations. Such cooperation needs to be facilitated and effected across the publicly funded R&D system regarding agenda-setting (prioritisation), co-programming, co-funding and, most crucially, alignment of R&D policies and programmes for systems efficiency and efficacy. This process will improve innovation, service development and facilitate access to publicly funded research facilities that will result from the established collaborative partnerships.

The unit responsible for research function within the Office of the Premier shall develop research collaboration policy. The policy will promote research partnerships and collaborations between the provincial administration and other provinces, research institutions, institutions of higher learning at both an international, national and local level.

### **9.9 Funding for Research**

The Office of the Premier will strive to facilitate access to funding sources, facilities, and other resources. This will be done through partnerships/collaboration with research institutions and donor/development agencies, where the provincial research agenda will be discussed for possible funding and technical support. The funding of the departments will be done through Provincial Treasury based on the provincial research agenda aligned to the priorities of the province. Funding will encourage and promote cross-fertilisation and rotation of expertise and talent between provincial government and other entities in research sector.

### **9.10 Research Capacity Enhancement**

The research capacity enhancement can be approached in numerous angles such as: research mentoring and presentations from academic and research institutions. These methods are regarded as developmental processes that aim at enhancing the research capacities, capabilities and skills of officials,



departments and institutions in the Province. This research capacity enhancement process implies that research and academic institutions will be providing government officials and departments with advice on how to approach research activities and enhance their research capacities. The process shall occur as part of day-to-day consultations and interactions between officials and academics, and researchers in and outside the Province. This process shall even promote collaborations on research proposals, projects and publications between departments/government officials and academics. Additionally, the process can take place through formal meetings and informal settings. The existing capacities in the universities in the province i.e. UNIVEN, UL, TUT, and UNISA can be utilised. Moreover, research institutions such as HSRC and MISTRA can also be utilised to mentor and provide guidance to officials and research units in the Province with the aim of enhancing research capacity. The Office of the Premier in consultation with the department responsible for coordinating municipalities shall facilitate linkage and networks with relevant institutions that are willing to offer pro-bono services.

#### **10. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE FRAMEWORK**

Monitoring and Evaluation is a critical service to oversee the achievement of the Provincial R&D Framework in Limpopo Province. The Green Paper on Performance Monitoring (2009) states that Government must be more effective in its actions and improve the quality of its services. Within the framework, monitoring and evaluation should not be an end in itself. Information from the process should be used to understand why policies and implementation approaches work and how those not functioning properly can be improved. Data obtained from the monitoring and evaluation process must be used to inform the planning process.

It is the responsibility of the directorate responsible for the research function in consultation with the M&E Branch in the Office of the Premier together with the LRF to oversee the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the R&D framework and research programmes and also to provide expertise and support.

#### **11. REVIEW OF THE FRAMEWORK**

The framework shall be reviewed after thirty six (36) months from the date of its approval by the Executive Authority or sooner as per decision or directive of the Executive Authority. The unit responsible for the research function shall review

the document and effect changes after consultations with stakeholders in the Province.

## 12. CONCLUSION

The Provincial R&D Framework is necessitated by the potential growth and development challenges as outlined in the LDP, and local realities of the Province. It is apparent that current R&D functions and efforts are not adequately coordinated for maximum impact. This Framework provides broad guidelines of the necessary institutional arrangements, support and processes for effective and efficient coordination of R&D functions and efforts in the Province. A unit responsible for research coordination in OTP in collaboration with provincial and departmental research and research ethics committees, and the LRF will ensure that both public and private participants align their R&D activities with the framework. The already mentioned stakeholders will also engage with external funders for possible investments. It needs to be emphasized that investment in human resources, improved funding for research, innovation and development, intellectual property management and funding are crucial for growth and development of the Province.

APPROVED BY:



DR PP PHEME

ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL



DATE

## **ANNEXURE A: THE LIMPOPO RESEARCH FORUM**

### **Introduction**

The Limpopo Research Forum is established in accordance to the **Limpopo Research and Development Framework** to provide a system for evaluating and coordinating research projects to be conducted in the Province. This includes all research done by the Provincial departments, parastatals, institutions of higher learning and other organizations. The LRF is also established to share experiences and outcomes on research imperatives and trends.

### **Functions of the Limpopo Research Forum are to:**

- guide and evaluate the research projects conducted in the Province;
- review the progress on research projects annually;
- provide a platform for networking with other research organisations locally and internationally;
- promote the dissemination of research results through the Limpopo Provincial Policy and Research Repository;
- serve as an advisory forum for research activities in the Province;
- identify capacity constraints related to research and share technical expertise; and
- facilitate knowledge sharing and integration

### **Coordination of the Limpopo Research Forum**

The forum shall be chaired by the Universities of Limpopo and Venda as chairperson and deputy chairperson respectively. The Research and Development Unit shall be the coordinator and secretariat of the forum.

The Limpopo Research Forum shall establish the Technical Working Groups (TWGs), such TWGs will be coordinated by chairpersons who are members of the LRF. The chairpersons of the TWGs should possess skills, expertise, and experiences to coordinate specific working groups. While government officials shall be encouraged to partake in TWGs, the chairpersonship position is not limited to government officials but it can be extended to external individuals who have knowledge and expertise to coordinate such TWGs.

Below is the Technical Working Groups to be coordinated through the LRF:



➤ Procedures and Standard
➤ Monitoring and Evaluation Systems
➤ Promotions and Dissemination of Research
➤ Capacity Building
➤ Review and Reporting

### Membership of the Limpopo Research Forum

The Limpopo Research Forum (LRF) shall be constituted by members who are in a position to take decisions on behalf of their institutions/departments and such composition shall be as follow:

#### Limpopo Provincial Departments

No.	DEPARTMENT	SECTION	No.
01.	Office of The Premier	R&D Unit	All
02.	Provincial Treasury	Research Unit	2
03.	Department of Agriculture	Research Unit	2
04.	Department of Sports, Arts and Culture	Research Unit	2
05.	Department of Transport	Research Unit	2
06.	Department of Public Works	Research Unit	2
07.	Department of Education	Research Unit	2
08.	Department of Health	Research Unit	2
09.	Department of Social Development	Research Unit	2
10.	Department of Safety, Security and Liaison ,	Research Unit	2
11.	Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism	Research Unit	4

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12.	Co-operative Government, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs	Research Unit	2
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**Government Parastatals**

No.	NAME OF PARASTATAL	SECTION	No.
01.	Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA)	Research Unit	02
02 .	LIBSA	Research Unit	01
03.	Limpopo Casino & Gambling Board (LCGB)	Research Unit	01
04.	Road Agency Limpopo (RAL)	Research Unit	01
05.	Limpopo Tourism and Parks (LTP)	Research Unit	01
06.	Gateway Airport Authority Limpopo (GAAL)	Research Unit	01
07.	Limpopo Local Economic Development (LLED)	Research Unit	01

**National Departments in Limpopo Province**

No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	SECTION	No.
01.	Water Affairs	Research Unit	01
02.	Energy	Research Unit	01
03.	Statistics South Africa	Research Unit	01
04.	Labour	Research Unit	01
05.	Rural Development and Land Reform	Research Unit	01
06.	Home Affairs	Research Unit	01
07.	GCIS	Research Unit	01
08.	Justice and Constitutional Development	Research Unit	01

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09.	South African Police Services	Research Unit	01
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**Universities / FET's / College**

No.	NAME OF UNIVERSITY / FET / COLLEGE	SECTION	No.
01.	University of Limpopo	Research Unit	03
02.	University of Venda	Research Unit	03
03.	Vhembe FET	Research Unit	01
04.	Capricorn FET	Research Unit	01
05.	Madzivhandila Agricultural College	Research Unit	01
06.	Tompi Seleka Agricultural College	Research Unit	01

07.	Mopani FET	Research Unit	01
08.	Sekhukhune FET	Research Unit	01
09.	Waterberg FET	Research Unit	01
10.	Letaba FET	Research Unit	01
11.	Lephalale FET	Research Unit	01

**District Municipalities**

No.	NAME OF DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY	SECTION	No.
01.	Vhembe	Research Unit	01
02.	Mopani	Research Unit	01
03.	Capricorn	Research Unit	01
04.	Sekhukhune	Research Unit	01



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05.	Waterberg	Research Unit	01
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### **Periodicity of Meetings**

The Forum must meet on a quarterly basis and meetings shall be held at such times and places as the steering committee may determine by a notice in writing to other members of the forum.

## **ANNEXURE B: PROVINCIAL RESEARCH GUIDELINES**

### **Introduction**

The Limpopo Provincial Research Guidelines is the general research principles, rule, approach and advice to realize professional research conducts in the Province. The main purpose of the Provincial Research Guidelines is to provide guidance to national departments operating in the province, while directing and guiding provincial departments, municipalities, parastatals and any other research bodies on the conduct of research that is credible, useful, valid and reliable and ethical sound. These guidelines seek to achieve the following objectives:

- To establish standardized and uniform research management systems, procedures, processes in the province;
- To promote common research approaches and understanding among departments and researchers in the province;
- To assist researchers to conduct research that is accurate, valid, reliable, and responsive to the needs of the province;
- To develop research capacity in provincial departments and municipalities;
- To instill the culture of research and usage of research within the public sector;
- To coordinate and manage research activities in the province;
- To recommend provincial departments to adopt and adhere to the Provincial research guidelines and to also comply with them within the scope of their departments; and
- To collaborate with research and academic institutions.

### **The Management and Coordination of Research Activities through the Provincial Research Guidelines**

The management and coordination of research in the Province will be done through the Research and Development Unit, the establishment of the provincial and departmental research ethics and research committees. The establishment of these committees shall assist the Office of the Premier to coordinate research

activities in the Province. The prospective researchers and research units shall submit the research proposals to specific research and research ethics committees. Once the proposals are submitted, the turnaround period for receiving comments and approvals shall not be more than 30 days. The committees shall meet four (4) times a year but in cases wherein there are urgencies and high demand for research proposal submissions and evaluation the committees shall make urgent arrangements to meet and work on the submitted proposals

*Check the attached Provincial Research Guidelines for full reference.*

### **RESEARCH PROPOSAL APPROVAL TEMPLATE**

The research committee and research ethics committees both at a departmental and provincial level shall assess and evaluate the research proposals using the proposed template/format/criteria below.

<b>Research Title</b>	
<b>Name of the Institution/ Department</b>	
<b>Address of the Institution/ Department</b>	
<b>Date of Proposal Submission</b>	
<b>Evaluator's (Chairperson) Details</b>	



<b>Signature of Evaluator</b>				
<b>Date of Signature</b>				
		<b>Scores</b>	<b>Departmental/ Provincial Research Committee's Comments</b>	<b>Departmental/Provincial Research Ethics Committee's Comments</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Research Relevance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the proposal address provincial needs, challenges and priorities?</li> <li>How will the research contribute to provincial needs, challenges and priorities?</li> <li>What is the problem statement?</li> </ul>			
<b>2.</b>	<b>Research Questions and Objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the research questions?</li> <li>What is the aim of the proposed study?</li> <li>What are objectives of the study?</li> </ul>			
<b>3.</b>	<b>Research Methods</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are data collection methods for the proposed</li> </ul>			

	<p>study?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What kind of data will be gathered and why?</li> <li>• What methods will be used to analyse data?</li> </ul>			
4.	<p><b>Ethical considerations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the proposal address ethical consideration such as confidentiality, privacy, voluntary participation etc?</li> <li>• Has the researcher developed and submitted the consent form?</li> <li>• Does the concerned form give participants sufficient information to decide if they want to partake in the research or not?</li> <li>• Is the language in the consent form user friendly for participants to understand?</li> </ul>			
5.	<p><b>Research Outputs and Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the expected research outcomes?</li> <li>• What are the expected deliverables?</li> <li>• How will the deliverables be achieved?</li> </ul>			
6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the research proposal meet South African Statistical Quality and Assessment</li> </ul>			

	Framework (SASQAF) requirements?			
7.	<b>Research Project Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timelines. What is the start and finish date?</li> <li>Budget: How realistic is the budget?</li> </ul>			
<b>Total Scores</b>				
<b>Research Proposals Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research proposal accepted without changes(the committee is recommending that the researcher should continue with the project and provide progress reports on a quarterly basis)</li> </ul>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research proposals accepted with minor changes(the researcher should continue with the project and provide progress reports on a quarterly basis, however the researcher should work on the comments and resubmit the revised proposal to the committee)</li> </ul>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research proposal accepted with major changes(the researcher should work on the comments and resubmit to the committees)</li> </ul>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research proposal rejected (the researcher should work on the comments and resubmit to the committees)</li> </ul>			



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