



UTHUKELA DISTRICT REPORT

Provincial Tourism & Investment Committee
17 September 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- q INTRODUCTION
- q BENEFICIARIES – TOURISM RELIEF FUND
- q UIF BENEFICIARIES
- q PROCESS OF SHUTTING DOWN/ HAVE SHUT DOWN
- q RETRENCHED WORKERS
- q PLAN FOR RECOVERY
- q CHALLENGES

INTRODUCTION

THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19

Six months into the COVID-19 pandemic, the uThukela District area remain HI District has been severely affected in some of the following areas:

- q Cancellation of events – weddings & festivals.
- q Decrease in travel – Accommodations and attractions remain quite. This is d Drakensberg area relies a lot on international travel for midweek occupancy, Ladysmith, Senior Citizens & School Group Tours are on halt.
- q Loss of jobs – in most tourism businesses. A severe blow to the youth.
- q Budget constraints in our municipalities remains a major challenge.

TOURISM RELIEF FUND

+25 Tourism businesses including tour guides in the uThukela District benefited from

Alfred Duma Local Municipality [+10]

	Name of Establishment	Type of
1.	Balm of Gilead spa and restaurant (Pty) Ltd	Beauty
2.	Buller's Rest (Pty)Ltd	Lodge
3.	Egerton Manor	Guest H
4.	Exotic Events Management and Catering Services CC	Events
5	Memra Guest House CC CK	Guest H
6	Tars Travel Pty Ltd	Tour O
7	TDR Caterers t/a Nauntons Guest House	Confere
8	Three Tree Hill CC	Lodge
9	Thy Word Trading Enterprise (Pty) Ltd	Guest H
10	Zinzanathi B and B and Projects (Pty) Ltd	Bed & B

TOURISM RELIEF FUND

Okhahlamba Local Municipality [+13]

	Name of Establishment	Type of
1.	Amacasa Props (pty) ltd	Cottage
2.	Berg Resorts (pty) ltd	Resorts
3.	Cathkin Booking & management services	Booking
4.	Cathkin Designs cc T/A Little Acres	Bed & B
5	Four River Rafting and adventure	Advent
6	Inkosana Berg Lodge	Lodge
7	Misty Peaks Drakensberg	Self cat
8	River Crossing B&B and SC	Bed & B
9	Thokozane Tents & Trailers	Bed & B
10	Itchy feet SA	Advent
11.	Umphafa Berg Tours	Tour Gu
12.	Umusa Shuttle Services	Shuttle
13.	Winterton Country Lodge	Lodge

* Tour guides not registered with the UIF were paid R1500 monthly stipend for 3 months, commencing from

TOURISM RELIEF FUND

Inkosi Langalibalele Local Municipality [2]

	Name of Establishment	Type of
1.	At Home	Bed & B
2.	VM Truck Stop	Petrol s
3.	Cathkin Booking & management services	Booking

** Many businesses could not be reached during the call for applications*

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUND

Obtaining information on the exact number of UIF beneficiaries in the district remains a challenge. The following are reported to have benefited from the UIF:

Alfred Duma Local Municipality

Trenchgula Game Lodge, Crown Hotel, Egerton Manor, Dongala Boutique Hotel, Bokmakierie B&B (all confirmed). ** Actual numbers of beneficiaries not provided.*

Okhahlamba Local Municipality

Montusi Mountain Lodge – 46 employees received UIF, Inkunzi Cave – 2 employees received UIF, 10 employees.

A total number of 109 beneficiaries were reported by various establishments. ** List of businesses not in report.*

Inkosi Langalibalele Local Municipality

- Ashnonville, Thyme and again, Summer Place, Weenen Game Reserve, Slievery Game Farm, W... Beachwood Place, Blue Haze, Oak Cottages, 57 on Lorne, Greystone, Weenen Cottage, VM Truc

RETRECHMENT

Information on retrenchments in the district is as follows:

Alfred Duma Local Municipality

Unknown (Information could not be obtained).

Okhahlamba Local Municipality

Out of 140 Drakensberg Experience members - 1325 employees have been temporarily laid off with R3500.00 per month. 42 employees were laid off with zero salary.

Inkosi Langalibalele

1 retrenchment at Blue Haze

Greystone Camp – most employees as this is Tour Guide Company

Tourism Graduate Development Programme – Contracts of the Interns in **ALL MUNICIPALITIES on the national lockdown.*

** The loss of jobs is regarded as a severe blow to the district.*

CLOSED OR IN THE PROCESS OF CLOSING

Information on tourism businesses that have closed down or in the process of closing the district is as follows:

Alfred Duma Local Municipality

Unknown (Information could not be obtained).

Okhahlamba Local Municipality

No businesses have reported to close down or are in the processes of closing down.

Inkosi Langalibalele Local Municipality

Ashtonville, Summer Place ,57 on Loarne and White Mountain Lodge (Temporarily Closed)

RECOVERY PLANS

Alfred Duma Local Municipality

- q An intensified marketing at strategic points such as malls, garages and the museum where handed to the public as we celebrate heritage month, also market the opening of the Hospital proper precautions in establishments are still a priority.
- q Offer special rates to mark the opening of accommodation establishments. Create "Early Bird
- q Review cancelation policy to be softer and more lenient than in the past-before lockdown.
- q Planned visits to heritage sites. Arrange tours with the CTO members, business owners and on social media platforms and publish them in local newspapers to market the commencement
- q Opening of businesses with skeleton staff
- q Constant monitoring of occupancy and allocating staff according to demand.
- q Government incentives that will assist the businesses during the recovery process.
- q Exploring of grant funding offered by the government to assist with the recovery and the upgra

RECOVERY PLANS

Okhahlamba Local Municipality

- q Multimedia marketing approach to stimulate the sector through various methods:
 - § Hosting the print media/newspapers to get them to write positive articles about Drakensberg area.
 - § Family trips with tour operators.
 - § Using social media and other platforms to promote the Drakensberg.
 - § The Tourism forum see a need to invest in the Virtual Tour project.
 - § The Drakensberg Experience map will be used as a guideline to do the Virtual Tour also be included.
 - § Council has resolved that rates will not increase. 5% rebate for the loss of income municipality will advertise on its website for the tourism businesses to apply. Tourism previous rates would need to make a payment arrangement with the municipality the agreed terms.

RECOVERY PLANS

Inkosi Langalibalele Local Municipality

- q Tourism Budget not available.
- q Forming partnership and assisting the uThukela District Municipality in implementing projects around the municipal area.

uThukela District Municipality include:

- q Review of the District Tourism Strategy.
- q Marketing/promotional videos for Alfred Duma and Inkosi Langalibalele (* CTO updated video).
- q Providing support and assistance for local municipalities and CTOs in respect of recovery plans.

CHALLENGES

Alfred Duma Local Municipality

Little/weak relations between the business sector and government, which makes it impossible to get accurate information e.g. Businesses that closed down and those that retrenched staff.
Difficult recovery for businesses that did not benefit from the Government Relief Fund.

Okhahlamba Local Municipality

Compliance matters remain a challenge. e.g. Many businesses did not meet the requirements to access the relief fund. * The municipality has initiated a business compliance campaign (In August 2020) in partnership with the relevant stakeholders such as uThukela District, Dept. of Home Affairs, etc.

Inkosi Langalibalele Local Municipality

Compliance matters remain a problem. e.g. Many businesses did not meet the requirements to access the relief fund.

Businesses heavily reliant on Senior Citizens & School Group Tours.

THANK YOU.
