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INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND THEIR EFFECT ON LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: A CASE STUDY OF MPUMALANGA

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A dissertation submitted to the Faulty of Arts, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts.

Johannesburg, 2005

ABSTRACT

Local Economic Development is a viable mechanism for economic growth for South Africa. National Government has thus has set in place a number of policies and pieces of legislation that encourage local government to participate in LED strategies. Integrated Development Plans are the most comprehensive of the legislation and force local government to engage with LED policy. The new legislation, has led to a fundamental shift in development strategy for South Africa. In Mpumalanga in particular, the development strategy has shifted from regional development to local development. This strategy has been prompted by the IDP policy yet many municipalities do not have the capacity to effectively draw up an IDP. Municipalities often simply use IDPs as wish lists of what they would like to achieve but can not within their current budgets. The National Government strategy of IDPs is forcing policy on local government that is not necessarily needed but could simply be a strategy to have more control over local government. This study explores the shift in government development policy and the capacity of local government to fulfill its new role. The Mpumalanga experience of IDPs and LED forms the focus of this empirical study.

DECLARATION

I declare that this dissertation is my own unaided work. It is submitted for the degree of Master of Arts at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any other degree or examination in any other university.

_____

_____ day of _____, 2005

PREFACE

This research project was inspired by a work experience at the Municipal Demarcation Board in 2002. For this reason I would like thank Dr M. Sutcliffe for the opportunity of working at the board. Further, I would like to thank Shane for his assistance in accessing the data at the board. I would also like to thank the municipal managers and other senior municipal workers in Mpumalanga who co-operated in the project. Further I would like to thank Yorik Venter from the Integrated Development Plan Nerve Centre for all this help and assistance.

Finally, I would like to thank my supervisor, Prof Rogerson for all his expertise, patience and input.

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