

## **Harnessing Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in the Vhembe District of Limpopo Province**

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**ABSTRACT** Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) are a driving force for economic growth and job creation. They play a major role in creating work opportunities and wealth. Access to and usage of ICT by SMMEs is a critical enabler in enhancing SMMEs' competitiveness and long-term survival. This study was conducted in the Vhembe District of Limpopo Province in South Africa. Both qualitative and quantitative scientific research designs were employed to assess the adoption and use of ICT in enhancing rural SMMEs' competitiveness in this district. Simple random sampling was used to select 10 SMMEs per local municipality, and a total of 40 SMMEs were therefore interviewed. Both primary and secondary data collection methods were employed. A questionnaire was used to collect primary data, while the secondary data was collected through a literature review. The results of this study show that ninety percent of the SMMEs in the Vhembe District were established using own funds. The study found that ICT enhances effective business operations, enables easy communication with customers and stakeholders, is fast and cost effective when doing business, and enables easy management of information.