

**An Appraisal of the Role of Amathole District Municipality  
(ADM) in the Implementation of Socio-economic Strategies for  
Stimulating Small, Micro and Medium Enterprise (SMME)  
Development in the Eastern Cape**

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**ABSTRACT** The implementation of socio-economic strategies are not well understood and have rarely been addressed all over the country. The objective of this study is, therefore, to establish a base level of understanding in order to identify the capacity of ADM on the implementation of socio-economic strategies for stimulating SMME development used for improving their local communities. The study used a qualitative research design that involves a systematic review of documents. Data was collected through the review and analysis of available existing documents. Data analysis included using the documentary analysis derived from the journals, and books as well as reviewing the various data analysis done in relation to the appraisal of the DM (District Municipality) managers in implementing socio-economic strategies for stimulating SMME development in their local communities. Findings from previous literature revealed that there are constraints faced by the ADM Managers in implementing socio-economic strategies. The study confirmed some of the operational challenges were due to incompetency among the municipal managers, and lack of clear understanding of the implementation of socio-economic strategies for stimulating SMME development. This study provides effective solutions to the identified challenges and impact as well as strategies to be adopted in order to alleviate poverty and provide job opportunities to the local communities. The implications of the findings are that unless the boundaries named above are resolved, poverty and unemployment, communities will and experiencing poor service delivery in ADM will continue to escalate and thus would undoubtedly lead to poor economic growth and development. Management of the municipality must ensure that qualified ADM Managers are permanently employed and allowed to partake in the implementation of socio-economic strategies.