

## Gateway to the Kingdom

Lavumisa is situated in the southeast edge of the Kingdom of Swaziland on the border with KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. As a border crossing town, Lavumisa receives many visitors and is able to share the culture and heritage of the Swazi nation. Here are a few phrases to help you start off your visit to Lavumisa and to the Kingdom on the right note:

**greeting:** **Sanibonani** *"Good day"*

**response:** **Yebo** *"Yes good day"*

**greeting:** **Ninjani?** *"How are you?"*

**response:** **Sikhona, ninjani nine?** *"We are well, how are you?"*

# LAVUMISA MUNICIPALITY PROFILE



*Lavumisa Town Board is committed to providing services and infrastructure for the people of Lavumisa.*

## **PROFILE OF SWAZILAND**

<b>Population (millions):</b>	0.9
<b>Percentage urban population:</b>	26.4
<b>Annual population growth rate (%):</b>	2.9 *
<b>Orphans (due to AIDS):</b>	35,000
<b>HIV prevalence rate (%):</b>	38.6**
<b>Life expectancy at birth:</b>	44.4
<b>Unemployment rate (%):</b>	22***
<b>Annual income per capita (US\$):</b>	1,350
<b>Population below poverty line (%):</b>	66***
<b>Adult literacy rate (%):</b>	79.6

Data Source, unless otherwise indicated: UN Human Development Report, 2002

\* Census, 1997

\*\* Government of Swaziland

\*\*\* Swaziland Central Planning Commission

~ The town services the surrounding rural community - estimated population 10,000

## **PROFILE OF LAVUMISA**

**Location:** Lavumisa is located in the southeast tip of Swaziland, in the Shiselweni region, approximately 175km from Mbabane, the capital. Lavumisa is a high-traffic border town that links Swaziland and the Republic of South Africa.

**Town Board Councilors:** 5

**Government Services:** *police, education, health, immigration and customs services*

**Municipal Annual Budget:**

*Town Board Expenditure (US\$):* 65,500 – subvention from central government

*Town Board Revenue (US\$):* insignificant

<b>Population:</b>	2,000~
<b>Annual population growth rate (%):</b>	2.5 *
<b>Orphans:</b>	Est. 200 of 2,000 population

## **CONTACT**

### **Mayor of Lavumisa**

His Worship, Victor Simelane

P. O. Box 6

Lavumisa, Swaziland

T: 268.207.9093

E: ltb@africaonline.co.sz

### **Alliance of Mayor and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa – secretariat**

Terry Parker, Administrative Officer

P.O. Box 60401

Katutura, Namibia

T: +264.61.224730

F: +264.61.227890

E: alliance@iway.na

### **Swaziland National AMICAALL Programme**

Rudolph Maziya

P.O. Box 519

Ezulwini, Swaziland

T: +268.416.3512/3

F: +268.416.3541

Mob: +268.608.5339

E: rudolph.maziya@amicaall.co.sz

### **UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme**

Mina Mauerstein-Bail, Director

11-13 Chemin des Anémones

1219 Chatelaine

CH-Geneva, Switzerland

T: +41.22.917.8597/8604/8308

F : +41.22.917.8078

E : mina.mauerstein-bail@undp.org

**[www.amicaall.org](http://www.amicaall.org)**

## **ALLIANCE OF MAYORS AND MUNICIPAL LEADERS ON HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA**

---

### ***The Alliance is a network of local government authorities and mayors***

The overall goal of the Alliance is to promote actions that contribute to limiting the spread of HIV and alleviating the social and economic impact of the epidemic on communities in Africa. The Alliance works in partnership with government, civil society organizations, the private sector, community leaders and international organizations.

***Alliance of Mayors' Initiative for Community Action on AIDS at the Local Level (AMICAALL)*** - is an action program that translates the goals of the Alliance into concrete actions in cities and towns.

National Chapters of the Alliance have been launched and program activities initiated in the following countries:

**Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Namibia, South Africa,  
Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.**

Benin, Kenya, Malawi and Mozambique have expressed interest in joining the Alliance.



***“We must be humble enough to listen and understand; and courageous enough to guide and lead”*** – Ernest N’Koumo Mobio, Coordinator of the Alliance.

## **IMPACT OF HIV/AIDS**

---

The Kingdom of Swaziland has one of the highest rates of HIV infection in the world (38.6%). In 1999, His Majesty King Mswati III declared HIV/AIDS a national disaster. School enrolment has fallen by one third, with girls most affected. Health care systems are being stretched beyond their limits. AIDS is wiping out decades of social and economic progress.

## **TACKLING HIV/AIDS ON MULTIPLE FRONTS**

---

### ***Mayors and Municipal Leaders Engage***

In January of 2000, the Swaziland Chapter of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa was launched. Under the auspices of the Swaziland National Association of Local Authorities (SNALA) and the Local Authorities Managers Association of Swaziland (LAMAS), a public declaration was made recognizing the crisis and urging local action. This declaration was endorsed by all local authorities in Swaziland. An AMICAALL country program was then prepared and adopted. Local AMICAALL programs have been launched in all municipalities of Swaziland.

*Municipalities are feeling the impact of HIV/AIDS in many ways:*

- Rapid rise in numbers of orphans, child-headed households and children living on the streets in need of care and support
- Erosion of municipality revenues
- Drop in school attendance
- Threats to productivity, decreasing revenue and higher costs for businesses
- Increased poverty and hunger – exacerbating the effects of the famine
- Increasing pressures on municipal services

How to cope with the extensive and painful losses of human life and how to manage the social and economic losses are critical questions now facing all too many societies in Africa.

A spectrum of actions is required: from prevention to care and support to treatment, to programs of assistance to those surviving the death of family members, through to

policies and programs which address the broader social and economic development implications of the epidemic.

Leadership, commitment and action are needed from all levels of government and civil society.

Community-based action is critical. The involvement of Local Government is essential because national HIV/AIDS policies cannot be fully implemented from the center.

## **LAVUMISA TOWN BOARD: WHAT ARE WE DOING?**

---

### ***Listening and Learning***

Recognizing that, as a high-traffic border town, an effective response to the epidemic was necessary, the following priority areas were identified:

- support to increase awareness and understanding of HIV/AIDS and to expand prevention efforts
- support to the increasing number of orphans and vulnerable children/young people
- greater access to care, support and treatment for people/families living with HIV/AIDS

### ***Responding to Community Needs and Realities***

With support from the National AMICAALL Program, the following activities/programs have been undertaken:

- assessment of the nature and extent of the current response to HIV/AIDS
- appointment of local AMICAALL coordinator (covering Lavumisa/Siteki/Vuvulane)
- launch of local AMICAALL program
- HIV/AIDS awareness campaign

- training in community-based planning
- commemorated World AIDS Day 2002
- workshop on HIV/AIDS education for Councilors (also an opportunity to discuss challenges for program implementation at the local level and role of Councilors in program implementation)
- workshop on needs assessments for Lavumisa youth
- two-day consultative meeting for young people from all cities and towns to encourage young people to come up with ideas on how to develop responses to HIV/AIDS in their communities
- stimulate community mobilization/engagement all towns conducted Valentine celebrations as a strategy for keeping HIV/AIDS on the minds of urban residents
- candle light memorial in May
- provision of information on HIV/AIDS to constituents and migrant populations and condom distribution

Lavumisa has been identified as the site for:

- a project to support orphans and vulnerable young people
- a voluntary counseling and testing center
- a recreation center for the young people