

Biography: Mr. Benedict Gamedze, Director, Strategy & Operations, Municipal Council of Mbabane

Mr. Gamedze is a seasoned development professional with over 25 years of experience in city management, economic development, and project management. With a strong technical background in economic, statistics and planning, he has led multi-disciplinary teams in major infrastructure projects funded by institutions such as the World Bank and African Development Bank. He has been at the forefront of projects such as the Urban Development Project, an infrastructure project funded by the World Bank successive Integrated Development Plans (IDP), organizational restructuring, ISO 9001 accreditation and smart city initiatives. In the past 10 years he has added climate change management, infusing climate change risk management in strategic planning and management, operating plans, and development programmes. He holds a degree in Economics & Statistics, a master's degree in economics and an MBA.

As a Director of Strategy & Operations he is responsible for strategic management in the municipality, overseeing the development of the city's Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and its implementation, as well as annual operating plans. He is responsible for Local economic development in the city with special emphasis on public private partnerships. He is also responsible for data management in the municipality and is presently working towards the establishment of a data lab for the city to ensure data-driven decision-making.