

# **Mpumalanga Provincial Government**



## **Department of Agriculture and Land Administration**

### **Integrated Resource Information Report**

#### **Thaba Chweu**

06 May 2005

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**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND LAND USE PLANNING  
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# Thaba Chweu

## Summary

Thaba Chweu is situated in the north-western part of Mpumalanga on the escarpment. Major towns in the area are Sabie, Graskop, Pilgrim's Rest and Lydenburg. Warm summers and moderate winters characterize the climate of the area. The area of 6 034 km<sup>2</sup> is covered mainly by grassland, with small patches of savanna in the north. In the east large parts of the area are covered by exotic (Gum and Pine) forest plantations. Tourist destinations, such as God's Window, the potholes at Bourke's Luck, various waterfalls, the historical mining village of Pilgrim's Rest and trout fishing makes this area an important and popular tourist destination. Beef, dairy, soy beans, fruit (peaches), wheat, maize, lucerne, tobacco and wool are produced.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Common Name(s)	Lydenburg / Pilgrim's Rest
Area	603,352.0 ha
Coordinates	29°58'48"E 24°27'36"S 31°05'23"E 25°29'23"S
District Municipality	Ehlanzeni District Municipality
Region	Ehlanzeni Region

### Towns

#### Name

Graskop  
Lydenburg  
Pilgrim's Rest  
Sabie

### Neighbouring Municipalities

#### Name

Emakhazeni  
Groblersdal  
Mbombela  
Tubatse



## Natural Resources

### Climate

#### Rainfall

Rainfall Range                    500 to 1,700 mm per year

#### Temperature

Temperature Zone    35/14

	DJF	Mar	Apr	May	JJA	Sep	Oct	Nov
T	14.2	13.8	10.8	8.9	7.4	10.9	13.9	13.5
Tn	7.5	6.5	4.9	3.6	2.8	5	6.6	7.1
Td	20.9	21.1	16.7	15.2	12	16.9	21.2	19.9
Tmax	24.7	25.3	21.2	17.2	14.6	20.2	25.4	23.6
Tmin	3.2	2.3	1.5	0.6	0.2	1.6	2.4	3.1

Temperature Zone    46/14

	DJF	Mar	Apr	May	JJA	Sep	Oct	Nov
T	17.3	16.2	13.4	9.5	7.4	11.3	14.9	16.3
Tn	12.8	11.7	8.6	4.7	2.8	6.7	10.2	11.8
Td	21.8	20.7	18.2	14.3	12	15.9	19.6	20.8
Tmax	24.4	23.3	20.9	17	14.6	22.3	22.3	23.4
Tmin	10.2	9.1	5.8	2	1.7	4.1	7.5	9.2

Temperature Zone    46/25

	DJF	Mar	Apr	May	JJA	Sep	Oct	Nov
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T	17.3	16.7	15.3	13.1	11.9	14	15.9	16.8
Tn	12.8	12.1	10.5	8.4	7.2	9.5	11.5	12.2
Td	21.8	21.3	20.1	17.8	16.6	18.5	20.3	21.4
Tmax	24.4	23.9	22.8	20.5	19.3	21	22.8	24
Tmin	10.2	9.5	7.8	5.7	4.5	6.3	9	9.6

Temperature Zone 57/14

	DJF	Mar	Apr	May	JJA	Sep	Oct	Nov
T	20	17.5	13.8	10	7.4	13.9	17.6	18.9
Tn	17.6	14.8	10.1	5.6	2.7	10.2	14.9	16.2
Td	22.4	20.2	17.5	14.4	12.1	17.6	20.3	21.6
Tmax	23.8	21.7	19.6	16.9	14.8	19.7	21.8	23.2
Tmin	16.2	13.3	8	3.1	0	8.1	13.7	14.7

Temperature Zone 57/25

	DJF	Mar	Apr	May	JJA	Sep	Oct	Nov
T	20	19.2	16.9	13.8	11.9	15.7	18	19.3
Tn	17.6	16.5	13.4	9.5	7.2	11.5	15.2	16.6
Td	22.4	21.9	26.4	18.1	16.6	19.9	26.8	22
Tmax	23.8	23.4	22.4	26.6	14.3	22.3	22.4	23.5
Tmin	16.2	14.9	11.4	7.1	4.5	9.1	13.8	15.1

Temperature Zone 57A/25

	DJF	Mar	Apr	May	JJA	Sep	Oct	Nov
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T	20	19.2	16.9	15.8	11.9	15.7	18	19.3
Tn	17.6	16.5	13.4	9.5	7.2	11.5	15.2	16.6
Td	22.4	21.9	26.4	18.1	16.6	19.9	26.8	22
Tmax	23.8	23.4	22.4	26.6	14.3	22.3	22.4	23.5
Tmin	16.2	14.9	11.4	7.1	4.5	9.1	13.6	15.1

Temperature Zone 57A/35

	DJF	Mar	Apr	May	JJA	Sep	Oct	Nov
T	20	18.9	17	15.4	14.2	17.1	19	19.4
Tn	17.5	15.6	12.5	9.3	7.4	12.6	15.7	16.6
Td	22.5	22.2	21.5	21.5	21	21.6	22.3	22.2
Tmax	23.9	24.1	24.1	24.9	24.9	24.2	24.2	23.8
Tmin	16.1	13.7	9.9	5.8	3.5	10	13.8	15

Temperature Zone 67/25

	DJF	Mar	Apr	May	JJA	Sep	Oct	Nov
T	21.5	19.8	16.8	13.9	12	16.9	19.9	20.7
Tn	17.5	15.5	12.5	9.4	7.2	12.6	15.7	16.6
Td	25.5	24.1	21.1	18.4	16.9	21.2	24.1	24.8
Tmax	25.5	26.6	23.6	21	19.5	23.7	26.5	27.1
Tmin	15.2	13	10.1	6.8	4.5	10.2	13.3	13.9

Temperature Zone 67A/35

	DJF	Mar	Apr	May	JJA	Sep	Oct	Nov
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T	21.5	20	17.9	15.6	14.2	18	20.1	20.8
Tn	17.5	15.5	12.6	9.4	7.4	12.7	15.6	16.6
Td	25.5	24.5	23.2	21.8	21	23.7	24.6	25
Tmax	27.8	27.1	26.2	25.3	24.9	26.3	27.2	27.4
Tmin	15.2	12.9	9.6	5.9	3.5	9.7	13	14

Temperature Zone 77/35

	DJF	Mar	Apr	May	JJA	Sep	Oct	Nov
T	23.6	21.8	18.9	16	14.3	18.9	21.9	22.6
Tn	17.6	15.8	12.7	9.4	7.5	12.8	15.9	16.8
Td	29.6	27.8	25.1	22.6	21.1	25	27.9	28.4
Tmax	33	31.2	28.6	26.4	25	28.5	31.3	31.4
Tmin	14.2	12.4	9.2	5.6	3.6	9.5	12.4	13.5

Temperature Zone 77A/35

	DJF	Mar	Apr	May	JJA	Sep	Oct	Nov
T	23.6	21.8	18.9	16	14.3	18.9	21.9	22.6
Tn	17.6	15.8	12.7	9.4	7.5	12.8	15.9	16.8
Td	29.6	27.8	25.1	22.6	21.1	25	27.9	28.4
Tmax	33	31.2	28.6	26.4	25	28.5	31.3	31.7
Tmin	14.2	12.4	9.2	5.6	3.6	9.5	12.4	13.5

Temperature Zone 77B/35

	DJF	Mar	Apr	May	JJA	Sep	Oct	Nov
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T	23.4	22.4	19.6	16.1	14.1	18	21.1	22.5
Tn	17.8	16.8	13.9	9.6	7.4	11.9	15.4	16.9
Td	29	28	25.9	22.6	20.8	24.1	26.8	28.1
Tmax	32.2	31.2	29.3	26.3	24.6	27.6	30.1	31.3
Tmin	14.6	13.6	10.5	5.9	3.6	8.4	12.1	13.7

Temperature Zone 77B/46

	DJF	Mar	Apr	May	JJA	Sep	Oct	Nov
T	23.5	22.2	20.4	18.5	17.1	20.6	22.3	22.9
Tn	17.5	16.6	15.1	13.6	12.6	15.2	16.8	17.4
Td	29.5	27.8	25.7	23.4	21.6	26	27.8	28.4
Tmax	33.9	31	28.7	26.2	24.2	29.1	30.9	31.5
Tmin	14.1	13.4	12.1	10.8	10	12.1	13.7	14.3

T - Average Temperature

Tn - Average Night Temperature

Td - Average Daily Temperature

Tmax - Average Maximum Temperature

Tmin - Average Minimum Temperature

## Soils

### Land Types

Land Type	Area (ha)	%
Duplex soils with red B horizons (Da)	1,390.7	0.2
Dystrophic and/or mesotrophic; red soils widespread (Ba)	60,329.3	10.0
Expose rock with little or no soil (Ic)	8,757.7	1.5
Exposed rock areas with miscellaneous soils (Ib)	70,252.4	11.6
Pedologically young soils (lime occurs regularly) (Fb)	11,523.7	1.9
Pedologically young soils (lime rare or absent) (Fa)	143,002.9	23.7
Red and yellow dystrophic and/or mesotrophic (Ac)	114,309.1	18.9
Red, dystrophic and/or mesotrophic (Ab)	183,018.9	30.3

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Red, high base status > 300 mm deep (no dunes) (Ae) 9,991.1 1.7

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Soil Clay Contents

<b>ClayClass</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>	<b>%</b>
Clay	2,769.8	0.5
Clayey	51,402.1	8.5
Loam	131,718.6	21.8
Loam & Clay	206,446.8	34.2
Loamy Sand	11,044.4	1.8
Non-perennial pans	66.6	0.0
Sandy	20,314.9	3.4
Sandy Loam	88,756.7	14.7
Very Sandy	89,018.4	14.8
Waterbodies	1,813.9	0.3

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Soil Depth

<b>Soil Depth Class</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>	<b>%</b>
Deep	30,803.4	5.1
Medium Deep	41,736.5	6.9
Medium Shallow	32,479.9	5.4
Non-perennial pans	66.6	0.0
Shallow	36,994.0	6.1
Steep Slopes	325,828.5	54.0
Very Deep	110,288.3	18.3
Very Shallow	4,238.3	0.7
Very Steep Slopes	19,102.8	3.2
Waterbodies	1,813.9	0.3

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## Soil Form Association

<b>Soil Form Association Class</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>	<b>%</b>
Ar, My, Va	2,865.7	0.5
Av, Gc, We, Cv	1,118.3	0.2
Es, Gs, Cf	534.6	0.1
Gs, Cf, Es	9,920.9	1.6
Hu (30%), Sd (30%)	26,002.4	4.3
Hu, Sd, Sw, Gs	166,834.6	27.7
Hu-dominant	149,021.1	24.7
Lithosols, Cv, Gc, Hu	3,370.1	0.6
Lithosols, Cv, Va	5,019.0	0.8
Lithosols, Hu, Cv, Gc	63,831.5	10.6
Lithosols, Hu, Cv, Sd, Sw	167,770.7	27.8
Non-perennial pans	66.6	0.0
Rg, Ar	224.3	0.0
Sd, Bo, My, Ar, Hu	4,958.5	0.8
Waterbodies	1,813.9	0.3

## Topography

### Elevation

<b>Range (m)</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>	<b>%</b>
601 - 700	2,243	0.4
701 - 800	13,458	2.2
801 - 900	29,158	4.8
901 - 1000	29,158	4.8
1001 - 1100	31,401	5.2
1101 - 1200	40,373	6.7

1201 - 1300	62,802	10.4
1301 - 1400	74,017	12.3
1401 - 1500	76,260	12.6
1501 - 1600	65,045	10.8
1601 - 1700	51,588	8.6
1701 - 1800	51,588	8.6
1801 - 1900	42,616	7.1
1901 - 2000	20,186	3.3
2001 - 2100	11,215	1.9
2101 - 2200	2,243	0.4

## Slope

<b>Class</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>	<b>%</b>
Level (0 - 3%)	49,162	8.1
Moderate (4 - 15%)	207,821	34.4
Steep (16 - 25%)	129,609	21.5
Very Steep (25+%)	216,760	35.9

## Vegetation

### Acocks Veld Type (1975)

<b>Acocks Veld Type</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>	<b>%</b>
Arid Lowveld (11)	19	0.0
Bankenveld (61)	41,402	6.9
Lowveld (10)	13,099	2.2
Lowveld Sour Bushveld (9)	104,803	17.4
Mixed Bushveld (18)	12,735	2.1

North-eastern Mountain Sourveld (8)	250,697	41.6
North-eastern Sandy Highveld (57)	132,656	22.0
Sourish Mixed Bushveld (19)	47,941	7.9

## Water Resources

### Dams

Dam	Primary Drainage Region	River	Capacity
Blyderivierspoort	Olifants		55.2
Buffelskloof	Olifants		5.3
Kwena	Crocodile/Komati		161.0
Ohrigstad	Olifants		13.5
Witklip	Crocodile/Komati		12.3

### Drainage Regions

Drainage Region / Catchment				
Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Area	%
Elands	Elands	Elands River	56,987.1	9.4
Elands	Elands	Nels River	82,315.3	13.6
Sabi	Sabi	Sabie River	99,446.2	16.5
Sabi	Sabi	Sand River	11,150.2	1.8
Blyde	Blyde	Blyde River	139,094.2	23.1
Steelpoort	Steelpoort	Steelpoort River	45,425.3	7.5
Steelpoort	Steelpoort	Waternals River	160,669.0	26.6
Timbavati	Timbavati	Timbavati River	8,264.4	1.4

## Land Utilisation

### Land Cover (1995)

<b>Class</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>	<b>%</b>
Barren rock	104.3	0.0
Cultivated: permanent - commercial dryland	1,877.0	0.3
Cultivated: permanent - commercial irrigated	1,338.9	0.2
Cultivated: temporary - commercial dryland	27,057.7	4.5
Cultivated: temporary - commercial irrigated	9,779.7	1.6
Cultivated: temporary - semi-commercial/subsistence dryland	1,582.1	0.3
Degraded: thicket & bushland (etc)	654.9	0.1
Forest	15,838.4	2.6
Forest and Woodland	1,051.5	0.2
Forest plantations	177,996.1	29.5
Mines & quarries	236.7	0.0
Thicket & bushland (etc)	127,417.9	21.1
Unimproved grassland	233,446.3	38.7
Urban / built-up land: commercial	25.7	0.0
Urban / built-up land: industrial / transport	618.6	0.1
Urban / built-up land: residential	2,826.6	0.5
Waterbodies	1,485.1	0.2
Wetlands	14.2	0.0

### Silos

<b>Silo</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Commodities</b>	<b>Capacity (Ton)</b>
Lydenburg	OTK	Maize (White & Yellow), Soya beans, Sorghum, Wheat	62,308

### Co-operatives

<b>Location</b>	<b>Co-operative</b>
Lydenburg	OTK

### Conservation Areas

<b>Name</b>	<b>Authority</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>
Blyde River Canyon Nature Reser	Mpumalanga Parks Board	1331
Buffelskloof Private Nature Reser		
Gustav Klingbiel Nature Reserve		
In-De-Diepte Reserve		
London Nature Reserve		
Lydenburg Nature Reserve		
Makobulaan Nature Reserve		
Mondi Cycad Reserve		
Mondi Indigeneous Forest Reserv		
Mondi Treefern Reserve		
Mount Sheba Nature Reserve		
Mt. Anderson Area	Private	1937
Ohrigstad Dam Nature Reserve	Mpumalanga Parks Board	2468
Pilgrim's Rest Nature Reserve	Department of Public Works	2983
Sterkspruit Nature Reserve	Mpumalanga Parks Board	1508
Vertroosting Nature Reserve		

## Demographic Information

### Population Distribution and Dynamics

#### Population Group (Dominant)

	2001	1996
African	69,848	54,754
Coloured	1,609	1,377
Indian	300	311
White	9,479	8,895
Total	81,236	65,954

#### Home Language (Dominant)

	2001	1996
Afrikaans	9,960	8,647
English	1,945	1,548
IsiNdebele	1,551	1,364
IsiXhosa	235	120
IsiZulu	4,874	4,978
Sepedi	34,917	28,909
Sesotho	4,682	2,709
Setswana	416	93
SiSwati	17,132	12,206
Tshivenda	91	91
Xitsonga	5,153	3,986
Other	280	593

#### Place of Birth

	2001	1996
RSA	79,187	

SADC (Excluding RSA)	1,692
RestAfrica	50
Europe	236
Asia	25
North America	14
Central/South America	24
Australia/New Zealand	7

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### Citizenship

	2001	1996
RSA	80,553	65,043
SADC (Excluding RSA)	536	433
Rest of Africa	7	1
Europe	105	196
Asia	25	3
North America	15	5
Central/South America	14	48
Australia/New Zealand	5	1

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### Demographic Characteristics

#### Age

	2001	1996
Age 0 - 4	7,727	6,001
Age 5 - 14	15,384	13,244
Age 15 - 34	30,659	24,236
Age 35 - 64	23,868	18,207
Age 65+	3,599	2,982

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#### Gender

	<b>Males</b>		<b>Females</b>	
	<b>2001</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>2001</b>	
0 to 4	3,917	2,936	0 to 4	3,809
5 to 14	7,596	6,557	5 to 14	7,788
15 to 34	15,409	12,260	15 to 34	15,250
35 to 64	12,059	9,530	35 to 64	11,808
Over 65	1,467	1,231	Over 65	2,132
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,448</b>	<b>32,514</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>40,787</b>

#### Persons with Disabilities

	<b>2001</b>	<b>1996</b>
Sight	1,131	1,828
Hearing	882	764
Communication	125	
Physical	924	805
Intellectual	329	228
Emotional	682	
Multiple	752	202

#### Socio-Economic

##### Highest Level of Education

	<b>2001</b>	<b>1996</b>
None	10,441	8,556
Some Primary	9,298	6,440
Complete Primary	3,494	2,928
Secondary	14,813	11,346
Grade12	9,329	5,600
Higher	3,058	1,946

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Persons Attending Education Institutions

<b>Institution</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1996</b>
None	29,817	
Pre-school	1,101	
School	19,481	
College	90	
Technikon	39	
University	37	
Adult Education Centre	26	
Other	40	

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Economic Active Population

	<b>2001</b>	<b>1996</b>
Employed	27,802	22,532
Unemployed	9,312	5,077
No Economical Active	17,753	
Total Labour Force	37,114	

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Industry

	<b>2001</b>	<b>1996</b>
Agriculture/Forestry/Fishing	7,275	9,389
Community/Social/Personal	3,389	2,384
Construction	1,113	876
Electricity/Gas/Water	95	191
Financial/Insurance/Real Estate/Business	1,065	528
Manufacturing	5,737	1,880
Mining/Quarrying	671	345
Other	0	

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Private Households	2,158	2,114
Transport/Storage/Communication	569	565
Undetermined	968	2,310
Wholesale/Retail	4,758	2,153

### Occupation

	2001	1996
Clerks	1,988	1,018
Craft/Trade	2,912	2,144
Elementary	11,384	8,743
Legislators/Senior Officials	1,119	862
Unspecified/Not Economically Classified	0	
Plant/Machine Operators	2,139	2,153
Professionals	1,190	1,137
Service Workers	2,279	1,662
Agricultural/Fishery	2,410	
Technicians	1,526	648
Undetermined	851	

### Individual Monthly Income

	2001	1996
None	47,121	26,064
R 1 to R 400	6,844	2,942
R 401 to R 800	12,751	15,399
R 801 to R 1,600	6,986	2,626
R 1,601 to R 3,200	3,639	1,648
R 3,201 to R 6,400	2,205	2,369
R 6,401 to R 12,800	1,099	458
R 12,801 to R 25,600	335	84

R 25,601 to R 51,200	123	39
R 51,201 to R 102,400	74	21
R 102,401 to R 204,800	38	
R 204,801+	19	

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#### Travel to work

	2001	1996
Bicycle	363	
Bus	1,830	
Car Driver	3,594	
Car Passenger	7,010	
Minibus/Taxi	3,565	
Motorcycle	262	
Train	91	
NA	33,747	
Foot	30,031	
Other	736	

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#### Households and Housing

##### Household Size (Average)

Household Size	2001	1996
1	5,782	
2	4,267	
3	3,090	
4	2,784	
5	1,925	
6	1,293	
7	722	
8	489	

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9	309
10+	412

#### Dwelling Type (Dominant)

	2001	1996
Formal	14,556	14,687
Informal	4,533	2,707
Traditional	1,894	2,241
Other	91	133

#### Rooms per Household (Average)

Room(s)	2001	1996
1	4,149	5,905
2	3,060	2,017
3	3,748	3,060
4	3,353	3,296
5	2,415	1,981
6	1,793	1,560
7	1,100	969
8	702	492
9	362	307
10 +	392	314

#### Household Income

	2001	1996
None	3,792	1,402
R 1 to R 4,800	2,733	1,534
R 4,801 to R 9,600	6,645	4,967

R 9,601 to R 19,200	6,138	5,313
R 19,201 to R 38,400	3,501	1,677
R 38,401 to R 76,800	1,831	943
R 76,801 to R 153,600	1,179	628
R 153,601 to R 307,200	509	223
R 307,201 to R 614,400	128	21
R 614,401 to R 1,228,800	41	
R 1,228,801 to R 2,457,600	46	
R 2,457,600+	18	

Energy Source for Cooking (Dominant)

	2001	1996
Electricity	8,624	
Gas	344	
Paraffin	3,903	
Wood	7,443	
Coal	645	
Animal Dung	77	
Solar	19	
Other	19	

Energy Source for Lighting (Dominant)

	2001	1996
Electricity	16,155	13,644
Gas	57	72
Paraffin	994	1,164
Candles	3,772	4,974
Solar	23	
Other	73	2

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**Access to Piped Water (% Households)**

	<b>2001</b>	<b>1996</b>
Dwelling	7,077	7,797
Inside Yard	8,408	6,297
Communal Stand	2,520	4,256
Communal Stand 200m+	1,887	
Borehole	115	375
Spring	13	953
Rain Tank	35	196
Dam/Pool/Stagnant Water	130	
River/Stream	639	
Water Vendor	68	
Other	183	30

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**Toilet Facilities (% Households)**

	<b>2001</b>	<b>1996</b>
Flush Toilet	12,550	12,319
Flush Septic Tank	818	
Chemical Toilet	137	
VIP	986	
Pit Latrine	5,373	6,609
Bucket Latrine	76	120
None	1,136	878

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**Telephone Facilities (% Households)**

	<b>2001</b>	<b>1996</b>
Telephone and Cellphone	2,348	
Telephone	1,754	3,569
Cellphone	3,835	

Neighbour	1,285	635
Public Telephone	8,851	8,772
Other Nearby	716	2,336
Other Not Nearby	535	823
No Access	1,751	3,718

Refuse Removal (% Households)

	2001	1996
Municipal Weekly	12,735	11,105
Municipal Other	122	667
Communal Dump	527	497
Own Dump	6,319	5,629
No Disposal	1,371	1,814

DISCLAIMER

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