NELSON MANDELA BAY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

The Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality is committed to making the city a preferred destination for investors and tourists alike, always in close consultation and engagement with its 1.1 million residents.

As the only city in the world officially named after former South African President and world humanitarian and icon, Nelson Mandela, the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality strives to give effect to the values exemplified by Dr Mandela, such as ubuntu, warmth, friendliness, unity and compassion.

In June 2015, a new political leadership, headed by Dr Danny Jordaan, assumed office. In his inaugural speech, Cllr Jordaan stated: 'This city is in my blood. I grew up here. I learned my politics here, I played non-racial sport here, and now I am honoured by the ANC to be in the driving seat to steer Nelson Mandela Bay in the direction of efficiency, transparency and to make it a truly competitive global city for the benefit of all. We aim to implement an intervention plan to address people’s concerns about service delivery, create a sound base for economic growth and job creation, entrench good governance and accountability at political and administrative levels, and root out corruption.'

The vision of the leadership is to make Nelson Mandela Bay the best-run city in the country, comprising a competent, caring and socially responsible public service and citizenry.

A decisive approach was adopted in rooting out corruption and the long-standing challenges hampering service delivery.

Important interventions being implemented to ensure that service delivery goals are reached include the finalisation of a medium and long-term economic and investment strategy; the development of a Smart City and a township economy; and the continued roll-out of the ‘Take Back the City’ Campaign, with the focus on eradicating gangsterism and crime.

‘TAKE BACK THE CITY’ CAMPAIGN

The Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality has partnered with local law enforcement agencies in a major drive to root out crime, corruption, poverty, drugs, unemployment and crime throughout the City in terms of the ‘Take Back the City’ Campaign.

BREAKTHROUGH IN HOUSING

The Executive Mayor announced in September 2015 that the institution had received a support package from government, including an amount of R4.5 billion for the construction of 8,000 housing units in Nelson Mandela Bay and a rectification project for shoddily built houses.

VIABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

The leadership has committed itself to the prudent management of the institution’s financial affairs, given the social imperatives and competing priorities and needs. Financial viability has been increased, and significant investor support has been generated. Key infrastructural backlogs are being addressed. Long-term confidence is evident from the latest credit rating by Moody’s, based on the liquidity profile and the debt to revenue ratio of the City.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Municipality is committed to transforming Nelson Mandela Bay into a globally competitive and preferred destination for investors and tourists. Its work in developing the local economy is complemented by a number of fora, such as the Local Economic Development Forum, the NMB Investment Council, the Economic Advisory Panel and the GDS Coordinating Forum. In addition, a number of development agency boards are operative in the City.

The Coega Industrial Development Zone (IDZ) and Ngqura deepwater Port are set to transform the economy of the region and the Eastern Cape. The Coega IDZ is a harbour serviced track of land that offers a duty-free environment, with tax incentives for investors.

The Port of Ngqura, a Greenfields Project, serves as the IDZ’s link to the ocean. The state-of-the-art deepwater Port of Ngqura was officially opened early in 2012. Transnet earmarked Ngqura as a transhipment hub, linking trade routes between the East and the West.

The automotive sector remains Nelson Mandela Bay’s primary manufacturing driver, with the Eastern Cape representing 40% of value of South Africa’s multi-billion rand automotive industry. Nelson Mandela Bay is also the preferred region for the manufacture of pharmaceutical products, yoghurt, chocolates, ice-cream, soft drinks, hides and leather goods and is a major export port for manganese ore, catalytic converters and vehicle components. The city is a major exporter of mohair and is known as the Mohair Capital of the World.

Engagements with Transnet have focused on their capital investment projects, which include the decommissioning of the existing Manganese Terminal and the construction of a new one in Coega; the Tank Farm; the Nelson Mandela Statue; the waterfront development in the Port Elizabeth Harbour, and the continued development of Coega.

TOURISM

With an expanse of 42 km of golden beaches, Nelson Mandela Bay has been dubbed the ‘Watersports Capital of Africa’. It continues to successfully host Africa’s only Ironman Triathlon. The iconic Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium has hosted many successful high profile sporting and cultural events. The Stadium won a prestigious engineering award for being the best stadium in the country.