





Milestones and achievements in Nelson Mandela Bay



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Foreword by the Executive Mayor of Nelson Mandela Bay Cllr Babalwa Lobishe



Celebrating 30 Years of Democracy in Nelson Mandela Bay: A City of Legacy, A City of Possibility

As we commemorate thirty years of democracy in South Africa, it is both a profound honour and a moment of deep reflection for me, as Executive Mayor of Nelson Mandela Bay, to present this foreword in recognition of our shared journey, our milestones, and our unwavering commitment to a better future for all.

This handbook captures more than a historical narrative, it is a celebration of the people, places, and progress that define our beloved metro. From our role in the liberation struggle to our status today as a metro of innovation, industry, and inclusive growth, Nelson Mandela Bay stands as a living tribute to the democratic values enshrined in our constitution.

Our metro, named after the father of our democracy, tata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, has grown into a dynamic urban centre with

unmatched potential. We are proudly home to a resilient and diverse population, rich natural beauty, and a strategic location on South Africa's eastern seaboard, which continues to serve as a gateway for trade, investment, and cultural exchange.

As we look to the future, Nelson Mandela Bay is positioning itself as a premier destination for sport tourism and world-class events. With a proven track record of successfully hosting global competitions like the Ironman African championship, World Cup cricket, soccer and rugby, and other national sporting tournaments, and major cultural festivals, our metro is well on its way to becoming a continental hub for sports, conferences, and mega-events. This presents boundless opportunities for local economic growth, youth development, and global visibility.

Our tourism sector, enriched by pristine beaches, heritage sites, wildlife reserves, and township experiences, continues to grow as we expand our offerings and deepen partnerships across the tourism value chain. We are determined to make Nelson Mandela Bay a year-round destination for both domestic and international travellers.

Equally, our economy is anchored by strategic sectors that are being reimagined for the 21st century. The automotive and manufacturing industries, led by global players and supported by an integrated logistics corridor, remain core contributors to employment and exports. We are embracing green manufacturing, smart mobility, and future-fit industrial ecosystems.

As South Africa celebrates 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy, Nelson Mandela Bay takes centre stage as proud host city for a series of prestigious international events, including the thrilling Springboks vs Italy rugby test match, the G20 meetings, various G20 Working Group engagements on employment, digital economy etc.

These events not only showcase South Africa's leadership on global platforms but also affirm Nelson Mandela Bay's readiness and capacity to host world-class gatherings. The intersection of sport, diplomacy, and development during this milestone year reflects the spirit of a democratic nation forging ahead, united in diversity and driven by progress.

The agriculture sector, particularly agri-processing and semi-rural enterprise, offers untapped potential in food security, job creation, and sustainable livelihoods. Coupled with our water management innovations and land reform initiatives, we are investing in transforming this vital pillar of our economy.

Nelson Mandela Bay is also emerging as a centre of maritime excellence, leveraging its coastal advantage and port infrastructure to support ocean economy activities such as ship repair, aquaculture, and marine transport. This aligns with our vision to be a leader in the blue economy.

Our education and research institutions, including Nelson Mandela University and our growing network of TVET colleges and innovation hubs, continue to fuel human capital development and position us as a city of knowledge. Through collaboration with academia, industry, and government, we are investing in skills, innovation, and the next generation of leaders.

This handbook is not only a tribute to our democratic journey, but a roadmap of what is possible when we harness our collective potential. The next 30 years demand bold leadership, active citizenry, and a relentless focus on inclusive development, ethical governance, and social justice.

Let us recommit to building a Nelson Mandela Bay that is vibrant, safe, sustainable, and forward-looking, a city of dignity, opportunity, and resilience.

We honour the past. We shape the future. We are Mandela's Bay.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, loopy 'B' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

Cllr Babalwa Lobishe
Executive Mayor
Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality

Dedication

To the people of Nelson Mandela Bay – whose enduring spirit and pursuit of justice embody the very ideals of Freedom and Democracy. And to the legacy of Nelson Rholihlahla Mandela – whose life continues to inspire the struggle for dignity, equality, and peace.

May this book honour your journey, your voices, and vision for a better future.

Acknowledgment

A heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this publication possible.

Nelson Mandela Bay Democratic Executive Mayors



Nceba Faku
2001 - 2006



Nondumiso Maphazi
2006 - 2009



Zanoxolo Wayile
2009 - 2013



Ben Fihla
2013 - 2015



Danny Jordaan
2015 - 2016



Athol Trollip
2016 - 2018



Mongameli Bobani
2018 - 2019



Thsonono Buyeye
2019 - 2020



Nqaba Bhanga
2020 - 2021



Eugene Johnson
2021 - 2022



Retief Odendaal
2022 - 2023



Gary van Niekerk
2023 - 2024



Babalwa Lobishe
2024 - Present

NELSON MANDELA BAY MUNICIPALITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP



Cllr Eugene Johnson
Speaker of Council



Cllr Babalwa Lobishe
Executive Mayor



Cllr Gary van Niekerk
Deputy Executive Mayor

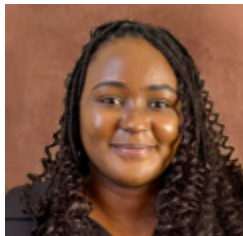


Cllr Wandisile Jikea
Chief Whip of Council

MEMBERS OF THE MAYORAL COMMITTEE



Cllr Bassie Kamana
Economic Development,
Tourism & Agriculture



Cllr Sinebhongo Kwatsha
Sports, Recreation,
Arts & Culture



Cllr Buyelwa Mafaya
Infrastructure &
Engineering



Cllr Khanya Ngqisha
Budget & Treasury



Cllr Luyanda Lawu
Safety & Security



Cllr Mkhuseleli Jack
Corporate Services



Cllr Thembinkosi Mafana
Human Settlements



Cllr Thsonono Buyeye
Public Health



Cllr Yolisa Pali-Jongilanga
Roads & Transport



Cllr Ziyanda Mngokoyi
Electricity & Energy

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Gqeberha takes the global stage: Economic and strategic impact of hosting G20 meetings in 2025

As South Africa celebrates 30 years of freedom and democracy, Gqeberha proudly takes its place on the global stage by hosting a series of significant G20 engagements that underscore both the country's international leadership and Nelson Mandela Bay's growing reputation as a world-class host city. The city made history in February 2025 by hosting the first-ever G20 Employment Working Group Meeting on African soil, bringing together global labour experts to address youth unemployment, gender equity, wage disparities, and the digitisation of work. This was followed by the Second G20 Digital Economy Working Group Meeting in April 2025, where global leaders explored pathways to bridge the digital divide and promote inclusive digital transformation.

Building on this momentum, Gqeberha will once again take centre stage with the G20 DTIC (Digital Trade and Investment Cooperation) Senior Officials Working Group from 7–9 October 2025 at The Boardwalk ICC, followed by the G20 DTIC Ministers Working Group on 10–11 October 2025. Delegates will also experience South Africa's natural and recreational treasures through excursions to Addo Elephant Park and a golf day at St Francis Links. These engagements, held under the South African G20 Presidency's theme "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability," not only advance global cooperation on employment, digital economy, and trade but also position Gqeberha as a vibrant hub of diplomacy, innovation, and inclusive development.



Front row (L to R): Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM) Executive Mayor Cllr Babalwa Lobishe, Deputy Minister for the Department of Communications & Digital Technologies (DCDT) Hon. Mondli Gungubele, NMBM Deputy Executive Mayor Cllr Gary van Niekerk. Back row (L to R): Mandela Bay Development Agency (MBDA) Board Chairperson Glenda Perumal, G20 Digital Economy Working Group delegate, NMBM Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Roads & Transport Cllr Yolisa Pali-Jongilanga, NMBM Acting Executive Director for Economic Development, Tourism & Agriculture (EDTA) Mr Wandisile Makwabe, Director-General for the DCDT Ms Nonkqubela Jordan-Dyani, NMBM MMC for Safety & Security Cllr Luyanda Lawu, NMBM MMC for EDTA Cllr Bassie Kamana, NMBM MMC for Human Settlements Cllr Thembinkosi Mafana and NMBM MMC for Public Health Cllr Thsonono Buyeye

The announcement that Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality would host six G20 meetings in Gqeberha between February and October 2025 marked a moment of pride and opportunity, not only for the city but for the country. This milestone elevated Gqeberha's global profile, solidifying its reputation as an emerging destination for international investment, tourism, and collaboration.

Gqeberha, South Africa, recently and proudly hosted two milestone G20 meetings in 2025, the Employment Working Group (EWG) meeting from 18 to 21 February and the G20 Communication Working Group meeting in April 2025, both held at the prestigious Boardwalk Convention Centre. These high-level gatherings brought measurable economic gains to Nelson Mandela Bay's hospitality and small business sectors, while aligning the city with global

strategies on youth employment, inclusive communication, and digital transformation.

During the Employment Working Group meeting, delegates from the world's leading economies converged in Gqeberha, creating a sharp surge in bookings, procurement, and service contracts. Accommodation facilities operated at full capacity, food and beverage providers saw record demand, and local businesses in transport, security, translation, and audiovisual production secured lucrative contracts. According to I-DEAL Issue 03 by the Department of Employment and Labour, this meeting culminated in the adoption of the "Nelson Mandela Bay Target" — an international commitment to reduce youth unemployment by 5% over five years through focused skills development, enterprise support, and targeted job creation programmes.



Local small businesses reaped the benefits through increased tender opportunities and exposure to global best practices. Numerous temporary jobs were created in event logistics, media support, and tourism services. The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), in its Ubuntu Newsflash, emphasised the broader economic and developmental value of these meetings, noting they would “generate considerable economic benefits and direct and indirect employment across sectors”.

In April, Gqeberha again welcomed global delegates for the G20 Communication Working Group meeting. This session brought together government leaders, media professionals, ICT, and digital communication experts to tackle pressing issues such as artificial intelligence, misinformation, media resilience, and building public trust. South Africa, as the G20 host, placed a strong emphasis on inclusive storytelling and digital access, particularly relevant to a region like the Eastern Cape, which is ripe for innovation but underserved in media and tech infrastructure.



Eastern Cape Premier, Hon. Oscar Mabuyane

The second meeting catalysed another wave of economic stimulus. Local creative agencies, language practitioners, ICT firms, and content production houses were engaged to support event delivery, livestreaming, and multilingual services. Delegates visited local innovation hubs and community media initiatives, affirming Gqeberha’s potential as a leader in inclusive, developmental communication across the continent.

Together, the February and April meetings delivered a broader economic and reputational uplift for Nelson Mandela Bay. From direct procurement and tourism spend to long-term skills development and global exposure, the returns on this hosting investment are already evident. Beyond the immediate boost to hotels and local vendors, these events created enduring value through upskilling, institutional learning, and global visibility for local professionals and entrepreneurs.



NMBM Executive Mayor Cllr Babalwa Lobishe

Critically, the meetings reinforced the global relevance of Nelson Mandela Bay's developmental priorities. The employment session addressed youth economic inclusion and job creation, while the communication meeting emphasized transparency, public participation, and combating disinformation. These themes are directly aligned with South Africa's national priorities: digital transformation, youth empowerment, and inclusive economic growth.

South Africa currently holds the G20 Presidency from 1 December 2024 to 30 November 2025, as the only African member of the forum. This role presents a unique opportunity to elevate Africa's voice on the global stage at a critical time, five years ahead of the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals deadline. It allows South Africa to shape global priorities, while simultaneously positioning Gqeberha as a meaningful contributor to international development dialogue.



The G20, a forum of the world's largest developed and developing economies, accounts for roughly 85% of global GDP, 75% of international trade, and two-thirds of the world's population. Its influence on global economic stability, policy direction, and crisis coordination cannot be overstated.

By hosting these key meetings, Nelson Mandela Bay becomes a focal point for debates on inclusive economic growth, sustainability, and global cooperation. Gqeberha now stands among cities equipped to facilitate international policymaking and high-level diplomacy.

With over 200 high-profile delegates and wide media coverage, the G20 meetings offered Gqeberha a unique platform to highlight its assets, from pristine beaches and a vibrant cultural heritage to strategic industries like automotive manufacturing, renewable energy, ICT, and tourism. The meetings not only celebrated what the city already offers but demonstrated its readiness to host world-class events with excellence.

The surge in demand for accommodation, dining, transport, and tourism services underscored the capacity of Nelson Mandela Bay's hospitality sector to meet global standards. Delegates left with unforgettable experiences, further amplifying the city's international appeal.

To maximise the impact of this opportunity, local stakeholders, from hoteliers and tour operators to tech companies and creative entrepreneurs, must continue to collaborate and deliver excellence. Hosting G20 meetings is not just ceremonial; it's a strategic milestone that can unlock investment, capacity-building, and international partnerships.

The legacy lies in more than contracts or visitor numbers. It's in the experience gained by local professionals, the platforms opened for creative industries, and the city's enhanced readiness to host future global engagements. The meetings also foster civic pride and unity among residents, an intangible yet vital outcome.

As Gqeberha prepares for the remainder of the G20 calendar, the city is rising as a hub of innovation, diplomacy, and opportunity. With focus, collaboration, and vision, Nelson Mandela Bay is well on its way to becoming a key player in shaping not only South Africa's future, but Africa's global standing.



IDP gives residents the opportunity to participate in municipal matters

Every municipality must prepare a new Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Budget Review after every five years, in line with the term of office of Council's elected office-bearers.

Annual public participation meetings are also held to gain the input of residents in preparation of the budgeting process for the next financial year. Public participation, as enshrined in Chapter 4 of the Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000, is a cornerstone of participatory democracy in the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM). The public participation processes reveal real community priorities,

giving Council a clear direction on what the NMBM needs to consider during planning, budgeting and implementation.

The very first IDP process for the NMBM was conducted in early 2000 when it became a metropolitan municipality.

“Attending and participating in IDP meetings, as well as issues raised by the communities, are critical in shaping Nelson Mandela Bay in a manner largely determined by our residents. It is important that they air their views on what they would want to see the NMBM deliver,” said current IDP Director, Mr Nkosana Dunjana.



“Participating in this process will indicate to the political leadership which critical priorities the Metro need to consider during the delivery of services,” he added.

Over the years these public participation meetings have largely been held in person, but the advent and development of digital communication platforms have now also made it possible to broadcast these meetings live.

Other digital communication platforms that are used to inform residents of these meetings are digital posters on social media apps such as WhatsApp, Facebook, YouTube and X (previously Twitter) to serve as reminders, while the NMBM website is also utilised in full to share the full schedule of meetings as well as the IDP document.

Besides giving their input at the meetings, residents can also have their say on the website, or they can make use of the IDP app to make their voice heard in real time.

To ensure that all relevant stakeholders are properly informed about the IDP process, the traditional media platforms are used to conduct live radio interviews, and for the publication of newspaper adverts and weekly press releases for inclusivity.

“Participating in this process will indicate to the political leadership which critical priorities the Metro need to consider during the delivery of services,” - Nkosana Dunjana

The participation of political principals in IDP processes has improved over time. Their role plays a huge part in boosting the confidence of residents, and also motivate them to participate as they get an opportunity to interact directly with the Executive political leadership.

Some of the major successes and projects that the NMBM completed as a direct result of the IDP, include, but are not limited to, the Njoli Square development, Industrial Park Technology Centre in Kariega, Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium, Coega Industrial Development Zone, the development of the N2 near Baywest, Red Location Cultural Museum, the establishment of the Mandela Bay Development Agency (MBDA), the Motherwell Urban Development Programme

(MURP) and the Helenvale Urban Development Programme (HURP), as well as the building of a number of multi-purpose centres in various areas in the Metro, e.g. Soweto on Sea, Wells Estate, Walmer Township, Helenvale, etc.

Further innovation is still needed to ensure residents can track the implementation of their priorities in the comfort of their own home. There is also a need for residents, who do not have access to such kind of technology, to have live screens erected at strategic points across the Metro on which can be displayed the number of projects that have been implemented, the budget allocated, as well as the status in terms of development.



Nelson Mandela Bay the only municipality in the country that offers sign language for inclusive and effective communication

When State President Cyril Ramaphosa made sign language the 12th official language at an official ceremony in Pretoria in May 2023 following a move by the National Assembly's approval of the request to amend Section 6 of the country's constitution to include South African Sign Language (SASL), Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality had already started using sign language in Council Meetings and Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Budget Meetings as part of the City's language policy.

The aim was to deliver inclusive and effective communication for all its residents, including people with disabilities, according to Municipal Spokesperson Sithembiso Soyaya.

According to Soyaya, the Metro Municipality originally used isiXhosa, English and Afrikaans as official languages and that the use of sign language, was aimed at facilitating equitable access to services and information and promote multi-lingualism.

The municipality now have sign language interpreters at all council meetings, said Soyaya proudly.



Since early 2023, and to the deaf community's pride, the municipality introduced the sign language interpreting services at other municipal meetings, such as IDP and Budget Public Participation, Council Committee and By-law public participation meetings.

"The meetings of council and its committees are important legislative decision-making meetings, where all members of the public must have full access. This is a progressive decision to make sure that we improve our communication and access to information to all citizens," said Soyaya.

Sign language is a visual language that uses gestures, facial expressions, and body movements to communicate, typically used by people who are deaf or hard of hearing. The development of sign languages varies around the world, and they are not universal. Each country or region typically has its own distinct sign language, shaped by cultural and historical contexts.

Origins of sign language:

Sign language, as a form of communication, has existed for centuries. Its origins can be traced back to ancient times, but modern sign languages began developing in the 18th century. One key figure in the development of modern sign language was Charles-Michel de l'Épée, a French educator, who is often credited

with establishing one of the first schools for the deaf and formalizing French Sign Language (LSF). This school and its language system helped inspire the development of sign languages around the world.

Sign language in South Africa:

In South Africa, South African Sign Language (SASL) is the primary sign language used by the deaf community. SASL has its roots in local and international influences, including British Sign Language, American Sign Language, and local indigenous signs.

South African Sign Language has evolved over time and is distinct from other sign languages. Like other sign languages, SASL is a full, natural language with its own grammar, syntax, and vocabulary. It is used by tens of thousands of people in South Africa, although the exact number of users can be difficult to estimate.

Usage of SASL:

According to the 2011 census, there were over 200 000 South Africans who were deaf or had hearing impairments, though not all of them use SASL. It is the language of choice for many people in the South African deaf community, especially in schools, social events, and family life. Sign language interpreters are often used in media, legal settings, and government communications to ensure accessibility for the deaf population.

The fake interpreter at Nelson Mandela's funeral:

A significant moment in South African history came during the funeral of Nelson Mandela in 2013, when a man, later identified as Thamsanqa Jantjie, was hired as a sign language interpreter. Jantjie stood on stage beside world leaders, but his sign language interpretation was widely criticized and labeled as “fake”.



The interpretation he provided was not a legitimate form of sign language. Experts and members of the deaf community quickly pointed out that the signs he was using made no sense and did not correspond to SASL or any known sign language. Jantjie later claimed that he had been suffering from a mental health crisis at the time, which led to his actions. The incident caused a public outcry, raising awareness about the importance of qualified and trained sign language interpreters, especially at such high-profile events.

Impact of the incident:

The “fake interpreter” incident highlighted several issues in South Africa, including the need for better regulation and training of sign language interpreters. It also brought attention to the challenges faced by the deaf community in terms of access to education, information, and services. The government and various organizations have since worked to improve the quality and availability of interpreters for the deaf community.

In summary, sign language, specifically South African Sign Language, plays a crucial role in the lives of the deaf community in South Africa. However, incidents like the fake interpreter at Mandela's funeral underscore the importance of ensuring authenticity and quality in interpreting services.







Nelson Mandela Bay housing development in perspective (2001 – 2024)

The Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality has made significant strides in improving the lives of previously disadvantaged communities, especially through housing development initiatives.

Over the 30 years of freedom and democracy in South Africa, especially when the erstwhile Port Elizabeth, Despatch and Uitenhage were merged to form Nelson Mandela Bay in 2001, housing developments like the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) made it possible for the poor and marginalised communities to have access to free or in some cases subsidised housing.

These houses ideally came with basic services, including electricity, clean water, and sanitation. This upliftment helped restore dignity and stability to many families who had been deprived of these basic rights during apartheid.

It is important to note, however, that Nelson Mandela Bay, like many other municipalities in the country, worked in partnership with the national and provincial governments to roll out these services in a programme that forms part of the broader goals of transformation, aiming to create equitable living conditions for all South Africans.



Housing initiatives for urban development in Nelson Mandela Bay since 2001 saw a total of 69 275 houses built, and about 39 607 sites serviced for relocation and top-structure construction. Houses that were built include but are not limited to:

1. Red Location Row Housing Development

- Located in New Brighton, Gqeberha as part of a broader urban renewal initiative, the development comprises of a set of 16 row houses opposite the Red Location Museum, designed by Noero Wolff Architects.
- This housing development project was commissioned for the Port Elizabeth Low Income Housing Programme (PELIP) to illustrate alternative housing solutions.
- Known for integrating cultural heritage (such as the Red Location Museum) with housing development.
- Focused on creating sustainable and dignified housing for previously disadvantaged communities.

2. Port Elizabeth Low Income Housing Programme (PELIP)

- A major low-cost housing initiative in Gqeberha.
- It was a collaboration with the Swedish government, highlighting international cooperation for sustainable urban renewal.
- 900 houses were constructed in various parts of the Gqeberha townships under this initiative.
- Recognised globally: Awarded the World Leadership Award for Innovative Planning and Design through Urban Planning.
- It also paved the way for Financed Linked Institutional Subsidy Programmes.



3. Comprehensive Urban Plan

- According to the Historical Planning Management Statistics, the Comprehensive Urban Plan, another South Africa-Swedish collaboration was introduced in Gqeberha and Kimberley.
- The Metro Municipality Land Planning and Management Division working with their Swedish counterparts started to develop a spatial framework and urban development plan for the city in its totality.
- It was later adapted to become the city's first Spatial Development Framework in 2009.

4. Soweto-On-Sea Project

- This project was one of the in-situ informal settlement development programmes in the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality. The project was initiated by the erstwhile Urban Foundation during a visit by the late icon of freedom and democracy, Nelson Rholihlahla Mandela in 1992, even before he was state president. The project was envisaged as part of the Urban Foundation project to improve the plight of the destitute families living in the flood plains of the Swartkops River.
- This project, an intervention by uMadiba, led to the establishment of a development trust comprising of members from the community and the foundation. The project involved the development of new townships like Govan Mbeki Township as destination area for approximately 4 000 of the nearly 10 400 families living in the flood plain at the time.
- The Soweto-On-Sea Township was created in-situ around the remaining 6 400 families. These site-and-service projects were undertaken prior to the introduction of subsidised housing. The after-effect of the in-situ development led to the introduction of the Soweto-On-Sea/Veeplaas urban regeneration project in 2006.



5. **Vision 2020 Project**

- A strategic long-term plan aimed at guiding urban development and spatial transformation in Nelson Mandela Bay.
- Focused on integrated human settlements, infrastructure, and service delivery.
- Supported housing projects like PELIP and others as part of a broader policy framework.

6. **Walmer Links Social Housing Project**

- A social housing development targeting low- to moderate-income earners.
- Located near the affluent suburb of Walmer, providing better access to amenities, jobs, and transport.
- Aimed at promoting social integration and reducing spatial apartheid legacies.
- This legacy project, together with the Fairway Social Housing Project that followed it, won numerous awards together with the prestigious Govan Mbeki Award.



**NMBM Electricity and Energy projects
ensuring there is light, creating safer
communities**



Current Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Electricity & Energy of the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM), Cllr Ziyanda Mngokoyi is adamant that the NMBM is doing everything possible to ensure that the more than 1.5 million residents of the Metro receive basic services as enshrined in the country's constitution. Since the advent of democracy, residents have a right to basic services like potable water, sanitation and electricity.

The NMBM ensures that all communities are thoroughly illuminated through the electrification programmes that were implemented from the 1994/1995 financial year:

- **Undeclared Informal Electrification Programme** – the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant (ISUPG) which is funded and focuses on open sites that are not subdivided and surveyed.
- **Electrification of State-subsidised Houses** – the Urban Settlements Development Grant (USDG) funded programme focusing on sites that have been subdivided, surveyed and pegged.



From the 1994/1995 financial year up to the end of the 2024/2025 financial year approximately 101 382 beneficiaries were connected to the Metro's main supply through the Electrification of State-subsidised Houses programme at a budget of approximately R499 995 593.63.

From the 2018/2019 financial year up to the end of the 2024/2025 financial year approximately 11 660 beneficiaries received electricity supply through the Undeclared Informal Electrification Programme at a budget of approximately R235 480 613.50.

With regard to the mushrooming of informal settlements in Nelson Mandela Bay, especially since 2018, Cllr Mngokoyi said right now (2025) there were about 165 of them across the Metro. The other problem the Metro is grappling with is vandalism of infrastructure, cable theft and huge crime operations performed during the darkest hours of the night.



In partnership with national government, the NMBM received **R9 million** from the **Department of Minerals and Energy** to support streetlight maintenance efforts. These funds enabled the municipality to:

- **Repair and maintain 10 000 streetlights**, improving visibility and safety in public spaces.
- **Address vandalism of LED streetlights**, replacing or repairing damaged units to ensure continued energy-efficient lighting.

Transformer refurbishment projects have also been one of the focal points, with the following amounts spent by the NMBM:

2021/2022 financial year - R10 583 839.00

2022/2023 financial year - R11 253 942.00

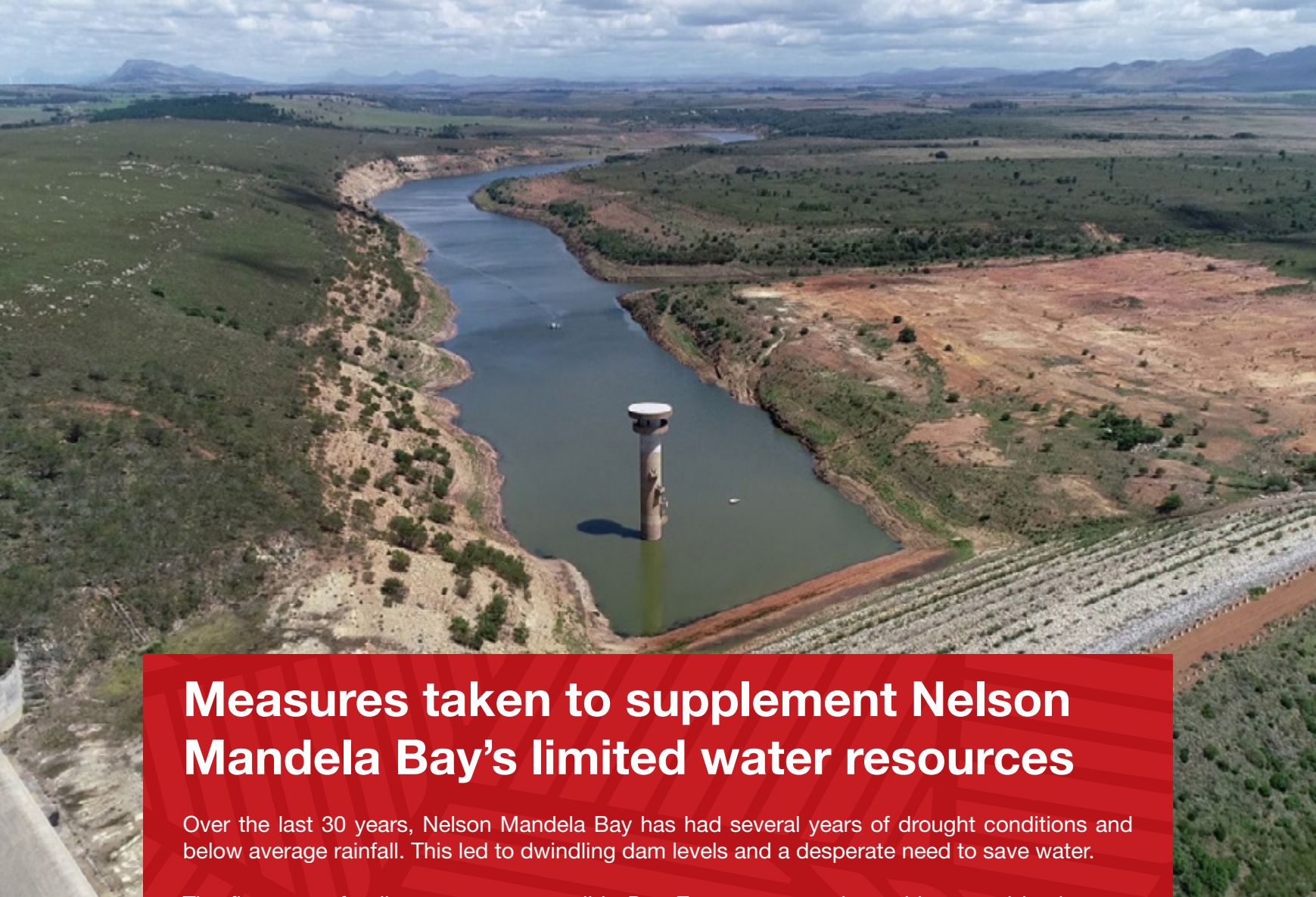
2023/2024 financial year - R19 166 000.00 and

2024/2025 financial year - R11 500 000.00



All these initiatives form part of the NMBM's broader commitment to infrastructure development, public safety, and energy efficiency. And residents, without a doubt, appreciate this provision from their caring government.

"We are happy to finally have these lights fixed. Crime is a challenge in our community and to have the whole street without lights, during load-shedding or not, has been a challenge. No one feels safe to be on the street during the evenings because you can be attacked easily without seeing any danger beforehand. We thank the municipality and appeal for a sustainable solution to vandalism and cable theft because sometimes the lights are not faulty as such, but they have been stripped," said Elize Jantjies, a resident from Arcadia, Gqeberha (taken from *Bay News*, the official Municipal Community Magazine, of December 2023).



Measures taken to supplement Nelson Mandela Bay's limited water resources

Over the last 30 years, Nelson Mandela Bay has had several years of drought conditions and below average rainfall. This led to dwindling dam levels and a desperate need to save water.

The first port of call to prevent a possible Day Zero was to make residents and businesses aware of the dire situation, as well as to request them to lower their water consumption. This was done through various campaigns such as community engagements, mall and school activations, and blitz awareness campaigns, as well as newspaper adverts and radio announcements.

Thereafter several measures were taken to supplement the Metro's water resources through other means:

Moregrove Wellfield



This borehole project cost the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM) more than R50 million.

During the opening of these sites in Mount Croix, the NMBM's Water and Sanitation Director, Barry Martin said that it is an extremely proud moment for the department since it's the first project they started 10 years ago when they first explored the possibility of using borehole water during the 2009 - 2011 drought. The NMBM wanted to mitigate the effects of the drought as well as all future droughts within its jurisdiction by diversifying its source of potable water.

Four sites were identified through a study, one being the Moregrove site, which consisted of three locations, Fort Nottingham Reservoir, Fairview Reservoir and the Glendinningvale Reservoir. Borehole sites were identified along fault lines as locations for potential groundwater extraction. The main criteria for consideration were accessibility and land ownership, geohydrological potential, and the proximity of the water infrastructure, with the key focus being on areas solely supplied by the NMBM's local dams.

During 2018 and the first half of 2019, the NMBM drilled in excess of 150 boreholes during its exploration of major aquifers. Borehole yield testing was performed in order to establish long term sustainable water yields for future usage.

The contract commenced on 12 July 2021 while the trial operating period commenced on 26 September 2022, with the system discharging treated groundwater into the water supply system. The project was completed on 24 October 2022. Eighteen local EME construction companies have benefited from the project during the construction period, in adherence with the legislated minimum of 30% to be subcontracted.



St George's Park Wellfield

The contract commencement date for the work was 12 July 2021. Thirteen local EME construction companies have benefitted from the project during the construction period, in adherence with the legislated minimum of 30% value of the work to be subcontracted.

The St George's Park Wellfield can sustainably produce an average of 2.1Mℓ/day and started discharging treated water into the water supply network on 1 March 2023. This wellfield is designed to provide treated groundwater to consumers connected to the St George's Reservoir as well as other reservoirs further down the Churchill pipeline. The successful completion of this project will allow for reduced abstraction from the severely stressed western dams, thereby ensuring a sustainable water supply resource for the future.



Bushy Park Wellfield

The contract commencement date was on 12 July 2021. The wellfield successfully started pumping water into the Churchill pipeline on 17 March 2023. The trial operation period started on 19 April 2023 with a duration of 30 days and proved successful. Practical completion was thus awarded on 19 May 2023. A certificate of completion was issued on 28 September 2023 with a 1-year defects liability period attached. Twenty-two local EME construction companies benefitted from the project during the construction period, in adherence with the legislated minimum of 30% of the value of the work to be subcontracted.



Coega Kop Wellfield

The NMBM has performed numerous groundwater investigation studies inside and outside of the municipal boundary as part of its Groundwater Augmentation programme. This initiative was identified in the NMBM's Water Master Plan and prioritised as part of the 2010 drought intervention plan. While the total estimated yield from all groundwater sources within a reasonable radius of NMBM's bulk supply infrastructure is approximately 50

Mℓ/day, the maximum potential of the Groot Winterhoek Aquifer is estimated to be 26 Mℓ/day including the flow from the Uitenhage Springs (which is currently 6 Mℓ/day).

The contract commenced on 20 March 2020.

During this contract a total of 36 exploration & probe boreholes were drilled in order to finally site with the 5 production boreholes that would ultimately provide the system with raw borehole water.



NMBM Budget & Treasury Directorate's main aim effective financial management that benefits less privileged

The Budget & Treasury Directorate of the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM) plays a crucial role in ensuring the financial sustainability and effective resource management of the institution. This directorate is responsible for overseeing the financial planning, budgeting, revenue collection, expenditure management, and financial reporting of the NMBM.

Key roles and responsibilities of the Budget & Treasury Directorate

1. Budget Planning and Management

2. Revenue Management

Billing and Collection: Manages the billing for services such as water, electricity, refuse removal, and property rates. Also responsible for ensuring timely revenue collection from residents and businesses.

Debt Management: Implements strategies to recover outstanding debt owed to the NMBM.

3. Expenditure Control

Payment Processing: Ensures that payments for municipal services, contractors, and salaries are processed correctly and on time.

Cost Management: Monitors and controls expenditure to prevent overspending and promote cost-effectiveness.

4. Financial Reporting and Compliance

Auditing and Reporting: Prepares financial statements and reports in compliance with the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) and other regulatory frameworks.

Transparency and Accountability: Facilitates audits by the Auditor-General and ensures transparent financial practices.

5. Supply Chain and Asset Management

Procurement Oversight: Ensures that goods and services are procured in a fair, equitable, transparent, competitive, and cost-effective manner.

Asset Management: Manages municipal assets to ensure they are used efficiently and maintained appropriately.

6. Policy Development and Implementation

Develops and enforces financial policies and procedures, including credit control, tariff policies, and supply chain regulations.



Importance to the NMBM:

The directorate is fundamental in achieving good governance, service delivery, and development goals. Its effectiveness directly influences the NMBM's ability to invest in infrastructure, maintain public services, and support socio-economic development.

The NMBM also provides free and subsidised services such as water and electricity to indigent residents, including pensioners and households with two incomes under a certain threshold: This is in order to ease their financial burden. The Assistance to the Poor Programme (ATTP) was initially introduced on 14 July 1997.

To qualify for this assistance, one must be a South African or a legal resident; with a total income of between R4 500 and R5 000 per month; while this can vary, be a pensioner or unemployed; not own more than one property; have a municipal account in their name and live permanently at the address for which they are applying.



What recipients receive under ATTP:

- Free basic electricity (around 50 kWh/month)
- Free basic water (around 6 - 12 kilolitres/month)
- Refuse removal service
- Sewerage subsidies
- Discount on property rates
- No interest charge on arrears while on the programme

Furthermore, a pensioner's rates rebate was introduced in July 2008 and underground water rebates were approved by Council on 5 October 2005. This gave, for example, 2 896 accountholders the opportunity to receive water rebates in the 2023/2024 financial year.





Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality empowers youth through skills development internships

In celebration of thirty years of freedom and democracy, the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality has reaffirmed its commitment to empowering the youth through its ongoing internship programme, facilitated by the Corporate Services Directorate's Skills Development initiative.

This programme has played a pivotal role in providing young graduates and job seekers with hands-on experience and essential workplace skills. Through structured on-the-job training, interns are equipped to meet the demands of the modern workforce while contributing meaningfully to municipal operations.

One of those lucky students is **Mdumiseni Matiwane** who graduated with a National Diploma in Public Management from Nelson Mandela University (2019) and Advanced Diploma in Public Management from the same institution and after failing to secure employment got a part-time job as a cleaner in a restaurant and had a short stint as a Document Management Intern at the Department of Health and a car rental driver in Walmer, before joining the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality as an intern in 2024.





Abongile Jacobs, an intern in the Office of the Executive Director: Corporate Services Ms Nosipho Xhego said, “I have developed a better understanding of municipal systems, including policy implementation, administrative processes, and community engagement. Working alongside experienced professionals has enhanced my problem-solving skills, taught me the value of teamwork, and improved my ability to communicate effectively in a formal, diverse environment. I have also learnt to manage my time efficiently and adapt to a fast-paced work culture.”



Hoping to gain experience and skills necessary to reach greater heights at Nelson Mandela Bay’s Communications Sub-directorate is Graphic Designer **Siyanda Jacobs** (CPUT 2013) who has worked as Layout Designer at Skawana News (2014-2016) and volunteered as Graphic Designer and Coordinator at CCIFSA (2017-2018).

Jacobs is open to getting a permanent job after this invaluable learning exercise or starting and developing his own company when the time comes.

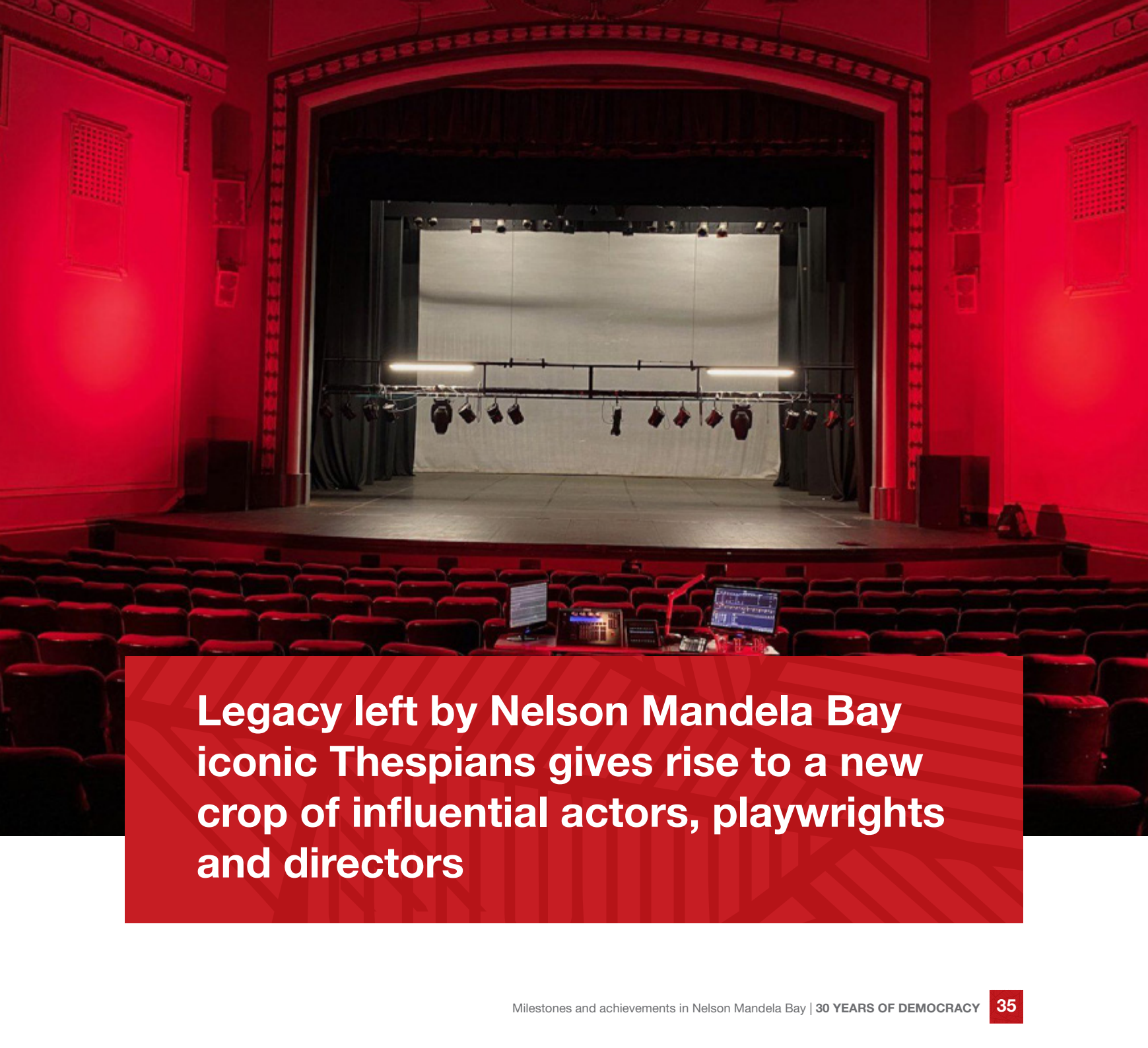
“Investing in the potential of our young people is key to building a sustainable future,” - Nosipho Xhego, Corporate Services Executive Director

“Investing in the potential of our young people is key to building a sustainable future,” said Corporate Services ED Nosipho Xhego. “Our internship programme,” she added, “is more than just work experience—it’s a launchpad for careers in both the public and private sectors.”

Many of the interns who have taken part in the initiative have gone on to secure permanent positions within the municipality. Others have used the experience gained to find employment across various industries, showcasing the effectiveness of the programme in addressing youth unemployment and skills shortages.

As the country commemorates three decades of democracy, the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality takes pride in being part of the journey toward economic inclusion and social upliftment.

The municipality plans to continue and expand the programme, ensuring that even more young people are empowered to shape their futures and contribute to the development of South Africa.



**Legacy left by Nelson Mandela Bay
iconic Thespians gives rise to a new
crop of influential actors, playwrights
and directors**

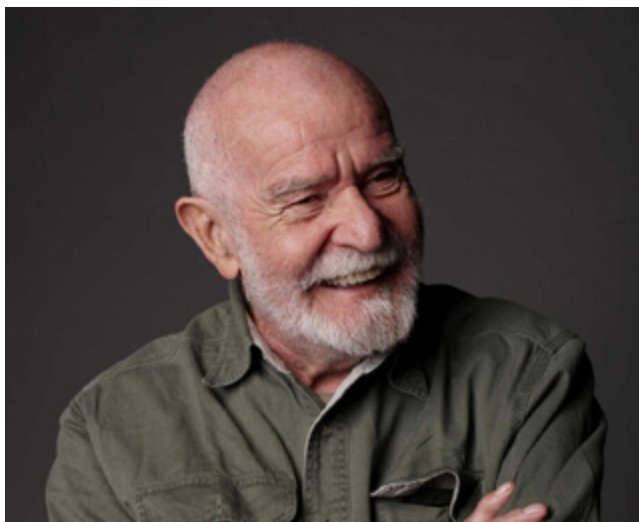


Nelson Mandela Bay, with its rich cultural history, has become a fertile ground for new voices in the theatre scene. The lasting influence of **John Kani, Winston Ntshona, Athol Fugard** and mama **Nomhle Nkonyeni** is evident in the works of contemporary South African playwrights, directors, and performers in the region. Artists like **Xabiso Zweni, Anele Penny, Zukiswa Cakucaku** and **Monde Wani** are deeply influenced by the legacy of these great figures, addressing themes of racial identity, history, and social change.

The Nelson Mandela Bay Theatre Complex (NMBTC), formerly known as the **Opera House, the Atheneum, Little Theatre** and other venues in the region serve as important platforms for their creative output. They continue to host plays and performances that engage with South Africa's evolving narrative, demonstrating how theatre in this region remains a crucial tool for social commentary and cultural expression in the post-apartheid era.

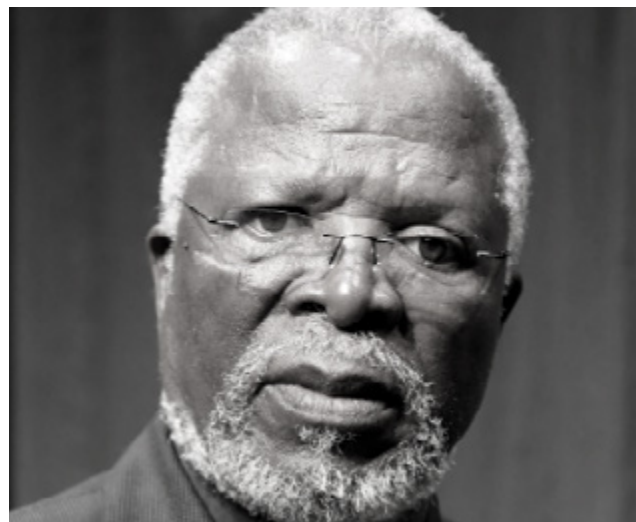
Through the work of Athol Fugard, John Kani, Winston Ntshona and Nomhle Nkonyeni in the 30 years of freedom and democracy, Nelson Mandela Bay's theatre scene has grown in prominence, with an increasing number of productions that draw from the experiences of these theatre icons and its people, while also embracing the globalized and democratic world in which they lived.

Kani, Ntshona, Fugard and Nkonyeni's influence, without a doubt, ensures that the struggles, triumphs, and complex histories of South Africa continue to be explored on stage, inspiring new generations of artists.



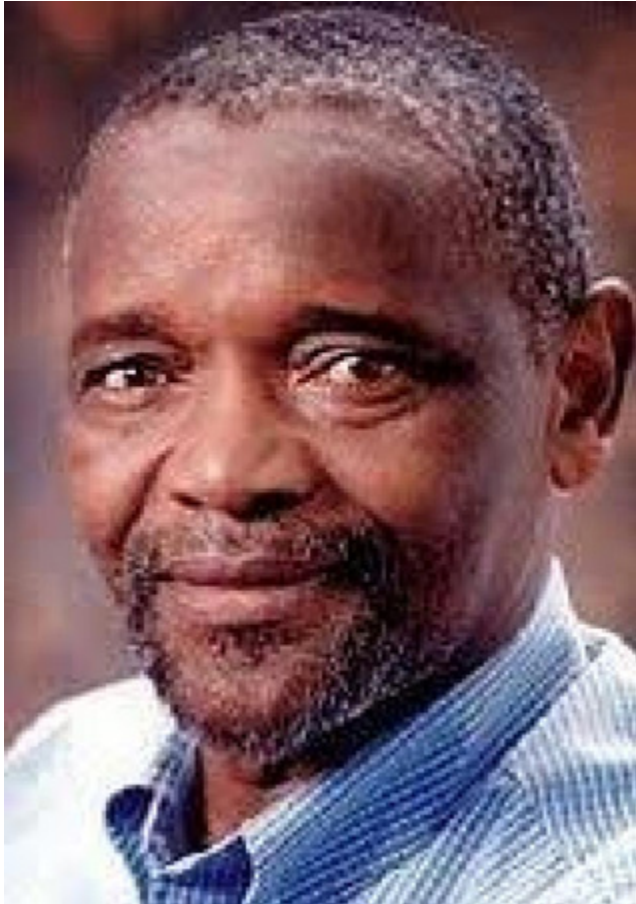
Athol Fugard is one of South Africa's most internationally acclaimed playwrights. His work depicted the lives of ordinary South Africans under the apartheid regime and explored themes of oppression, resistance and hope.

Fugard's impact on South African theatre, and specifically Nelson Mandela Bay, is immense. His work, such as *Master Harold ... and the Boys* and *Blood Knot* continue to shape the narratives of South African theatre. We see talented playwrights and directors in the region drawing inspiration from the above thespians, authors, film actors and directors' exploration of racial tensions, personal identity, and the effects of systemic injustices. Through their work, local artists continue to tackle the legacy of apartheid while embracing the freedom of the post-apartheid era.



John Kani is one of South Africa's most iconic actors and playwrights. His work has played an influential role in shaping South African theatre both before and after the end of apartheid. Kani is widely recognised for his involvement in productions that highlight the social and political issues, as well as the human experiences tied to South African complex history.

Kani, who is the only person still alive at the time of writing this booklet, contributed immensely to South Africa theatre, including being involved in plays that highlight social and political issues, as well as human experiences tied to South African complex history like *Sizwe Banzi is dead* (cowritten with Winston Ntshona), *The Island and My Children*, *My Africa*, scribbled by Athol Fugard.



Winston Ntshona is one of the South African actors and playwrights who worked closely with John Kani, particularly on the groundbreaking *Sizwe Banzi is Dead* and *The Island*. Ntshona's work explores the personal and societal challenges faced by South Africans, often emphasizing the resilience and dignity of individuals in the face of systemic oppression.

Ntshona's impact on theatre in Nelson Mandela Bay is seen through his powerful performances and the continued relevance of the themes he explored. His contributions as a performer and writer are a touchstone for contemporary South African theatre, and his legacy resonates in the work of local playwrights and directors who seek to explore similar themes of human struggle and triumph.



Nomhle Nkonyeni was a renowned South African actress from New Brighton, Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth), and she left an indelible mark on the South African entertainment industry between 1997 and 2019. Known for her powerful performances in both television and film, Nomhle's career was a source of inspiration to many, particularly young actors from townships.

Nkonyeni won several prestigious awards over the years, thanks to her versatile acting skills. She was known for her roles in popular South African productions like *Gugu and Andile*, *Rhythm City*, *The Lab*, *Tsha Tsha* and *Knuckle City*. Her presence on screen was often magnetic, and her ability to portray a wide range of emotions made her a beloved figure in the industry.

Her background in New Brighton, Gqeberha, was significant in her story. As a woman who came from humble beginnings, Nomhle Nkonyeni's journey continues to be a beacon of hope for young aspiring actors, particularly those from disadvantaged communities. Her rise to prominence in the competitive world of television and film demonstrated that with talent, dedication, and hard work, anyone could overcome challenges and break into the industry.

Nkonyeni's story also encouraged young actors from townships to pursue their dreams, showing that acting could be a pathway to success, even for those without access to extensive resources. Her legacy continues to inspire future generations of South African talent, especially those from underrepresented communities like townships.

Nomhle Nkonyeni is celebrated not only for her acting but also for her role in mentoring young talent and using her platform to advocate for social issues. Her contributions to South African culture and the entertainment industry remain a source of pride.



Though dancer, stage and film actress and director **Zukiswa Cakucaku** of Motherwell, Gqeberha has expressed her gratitude to several influential figures in the South African entertainment industry like head of Stage-world Theatre School teacher, Marlene Pieterse, Reverend Mzwandile Maqina and Looks Matoto for their impactful contributions to her career and their role in shaping her journey in the arts, she cannot overemphasize the role of mama Nomhle Nkonyeni and Nkomoshe, as Dr Winston Ntshona was affectionately known.

Through Nkonyeni's mentorship and Ntshona's directing and guidance, Cakucaku has been to countries like Scotland, staged plays a couple of times at the National Arts Festival in Makanda and won accolades like the Best Actress in internationally acclaimed productions.

Cakucaku who got a role in the locally produced SA Television Series *Gqeberha: The Empire* became the darling of television fans. She thanks jazz maestro and composer Jonas Gwangwa as well as singer and cultural custodian Mama Matozi Madosini for helping her develop her artistic prowess.

Cakucaku offers workshops at the Mandela Bay Theatre Complex and in February-March this year (2025) she was a producer of *Sizwe Bansi is dead* and *My Children, My Africa*, and ensured hundreds of high school learners watched them at the Atheneum Theatre in Gqeberha and around the Eastern Cape Province with the help of Xabiso Zweni and Anele Penny - for the inspiration of the Kanis et al.



Stage and television actor **Anele Penny** credits the dearly departed big screen and television actor Vuyisile Bojana, uChayi, his uncle, for his stage expertise.

Penny hails from the rural Peddie. He matriculated from Sobantu Senior Secondary School and eyed Social Work from Fort Hare University but ended up with a Performance Arts Certificate from Lovedale College and Diploma from Stage-world Theatre School under Marlene Pieterse's guidance here in Gqeberha.

"I first auditioned for *Tsha Tsha* and had a cameo role and was cast on a number of stage productions by playwrights like Monde Ngonyama, Zwai Mgijima and Xabiso Zweni," revealed Penny. He has been a number of times to the National Arts Festival in Makanda, formerly Grahamstown, the Market Theatre in Gauteng and Baxter Theatre in Cape Town.

Before, however, Penny acted in a number of radio drama stories at *UMhlobo Wenene FM*, but the highlight of his dawning acting career was when he was cast as a profiled character Councillor Nimba Ngamlana in Seasons 1 & 2 of the Mzantsi Magic soapie *Gqeberha: The Empire* where he definitely made his mark.

Penny proudly revealed that he has learnt a lot from the works of Dr Kani and Dr Ntshona and performed some including a *Sizwe Banzi is Dead* monologue while still at Lovedale TVET College.



Multi-award winning Walmer Township's playwright, actor and director **Xabisolethu Zweni** who was born in the small Karoo town of Somerset East but grew up KwaDwesi here in Gqeberha believes, without the influence of our local icons of theatre and film, the Winston Ntshonas of this world, "There is no me," said Xabiso.

A fun-loving creative who enjoys traveling and meeting new people, Xabiso is armed with a Diploma in Speech and Drama from Stage-world Theatre School, Trinity London's Performing Arts Diploma and is schooled in teaching theatre through training from Germany's Pedagogy for Youth and Children Theatre.

Celebrating the success of his latest production, *The Tyrant* which he performs with brother-in-arms Anele Penny, Xabiso revealed that he was inspired by the peoples' trials and tribulations, achievement and downfalls as those make good stories.

Furthermore, a life-inspired Xabiso is driven by world events, especially those with mystery and unresolved conflicts. His fictional brain blends fiction and reality, a proud Xabiso revealed, adding that he is ambitious about the growth of theatre in the Eastern Cape, thanks to the work and legacy of Kani, Ntshona et al.

A big thank you also goes to NMBTC management and leadership of Monde Ngonyama, himself a creative genius born in Kirkwood and bred in Kariega where he started as an educator, in this Metropolitan Municipality.

Here, we also salute Kariega's Mtutuzeli Sozwe, Ndizimisele Bedesho and Ayanda Billie for their immense contributions in theatre and literature.



The Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium: A beacon of hope

When then FIFA president, Sepp Blatter, announced in May 2004 that South Africa had been awarded the hosting rights for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, the whole country celebrated. It was the first time the FIFA World Cup had been awarded to an African country, and with ten years of democracy behind us, it was time to show the world that we were not only able to have a peaceful transition to democracy, but are also able to put on a spectacular showcase when it comes to international sporting events.

Construction on five new stadiums for the tournament started between 2006 and 2007, with the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium opposite the North End Lake being one of them.

Design

It was designed by stadium specialists GMP Argitekten, along with local firms GAPP Architects, Dominic Bonnesse Architects and Architectural Design Associates (Pty) Ltd. The stadium's nickname, The Protea, can be attributed to the unique roof structure, made up of a series of white 'petals', making it look like a flower. It is approximately 40m high and consists of six levels on the western side, in addition to five on each of the northern, southern and eastern stands. There are three access gates.



Construction

A consortium consisting of Grinaker-LTA, Interbeton and Ibhayi JV was responsible for the building of the stadium.

The local building industry benefited tremendously from the construction of the stadium. The implementation of this huge, fast track project introduced several local role-players to a new scale of development, with the local construction industry receiving a huge boost. The construction process also included extensive use of local suppliers and experts in conjunction with international specialists, ensuring that adequate skills transfer took place.

An estimated total of 6 800 jobs were created throughout the process and the development of the stadium resulted in the upliftment and urban renewal of the surrounding residential and commercial area of North End and the major routes leading to the stadium.

Facilities

The stadium has a capacity of 46 000, in addition to 4 000 extra seats that were temporarily installed for the 2010 FIFA World Cup. The seats are of different shades, from light orange to dark red, and were arranged at random to help the stadium appear full at all times. It also means that sun damage is less of a problem and replaced seats are less noticeable.

It boasts 49 hospitality suites, two business lounges, a gymnasium, and lecture and function rooms. There are also two conference rooms situated on the first level, which are able to accommodate approximately 200 people.

Two big viewing screens (12.7m x 7.2m) were installed for live coverage of the activities on the field.





Pitch

The playing surface consists of natural grass that was grown off site in the St Albans area. The areas surrounding the pitch are artificial. The field that was originally laid was a mixture of kikuyu grass and rye grass.

Following the World Cup, a Desso GrassMaster system was installed due to the high workload of hosting both soccer and rugby matches.

A lighting system is used to ensure that all grass on the pitch grows properly. A unit with 61 000-watt bulbs is used to help certain parts of the pitch covered by shadow due to the stadium roof.

Usage after the 2010 FIFA World Cup

The Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium is currently the home ground of the EP Kings rugby team, as well as local PSL outfit, Chippa United.

Over the years the stadium has hosted several test matches involving the Springboks, most notably the 2011 Tri Nations match against New Zealand. Several rounds of the IRB Sevens World Series were also hosted at the stadium from 2011 onwards.

The stadium was also one of the host venues for the 2013 Africa Cup of Nations and would be used in future bids for South Africa to host the Rugby World Cup.





Newton Park swimming pool – Training ground of future Olympic stars

Originally built as an open-air, unheated swimming pool in the 1950's, the Newton Park swimming pool was converted into an indoor, heated pool to international standards in 2010 to ensure year-round use and the hosting of high-level events, including Olympic trials.

It boasts an Olympic-size pool, diving pool as well as electronic scoreboard.



Several swimming events have been hosted over the years, among them B-League school galas for high schools, as well as A-League galas in which swimming clubs from Nelson Mandela Bay and the surrounding areas compete for honours.

Another club-level event hosted at the pool is the SA National Level 3 championships in which swimming clubs from all over the country compete against each other.

However, one of the most notable highlights for swimming enthusiasts in Gqeberha was

the hosting of the 2022 South African National Swimming Championships. It included big names such as Pieter Coetze, Chad le Clos, Tatjana Schoenmaker (Smith), Erin Gallagher, as well as swimmers from Great Britain, India and Namibia. It also served as a meet to select the swimmers to represent South Africa at the 2022 World Aquatics Championships and the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

This was followed by the 2024 South African National Aquatic Championships featuring some of South Africa's prominent swimmers as well as future stars.

Thirty years of the Nelson Mandela Bay boxing boom



In the thirty years of freedom and democracy, Nelson Mandela Bay has had great success in professional boxing. The sport has helped a number of its adherents change their lives for the better; to complete the adage of rags to riches stories that would make blockbuster movies.

Port Elizabeth, Despatch and Uitenhage, that form the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipal area – the erstwhile Eastern Province (EP) - has been in serious contention with the Border area for the Mecca of Boxing title. This is precisely because of tough competition in boxing talent identification, nurturing and grooming, with tough fights fought between boxers from these two centers of excellence in boxing development.

Fight fans enjoyed epic battles and came in numbers to watch them at venues like Centenary Hall (now known as Nangoza Jebe Hall), Feathermarket Hall, the Industrial showgrounds, Motherwell stadium in Gqeberha, Indoor Sports Centre and Babs Madlakane Community Hall both in Kariega.



This area has seen local boxers competing with distinction against opposition from across the country, and some of our pugilists went on to win world titles from different world sanctioning bodies.

While our focus is on highlighting the boxing boom in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality in the thirty years of freedom and democracy, we also take time to remember a number of boxing gurus who laid a firm foundation for this notable accentuation of boxing development in the City.

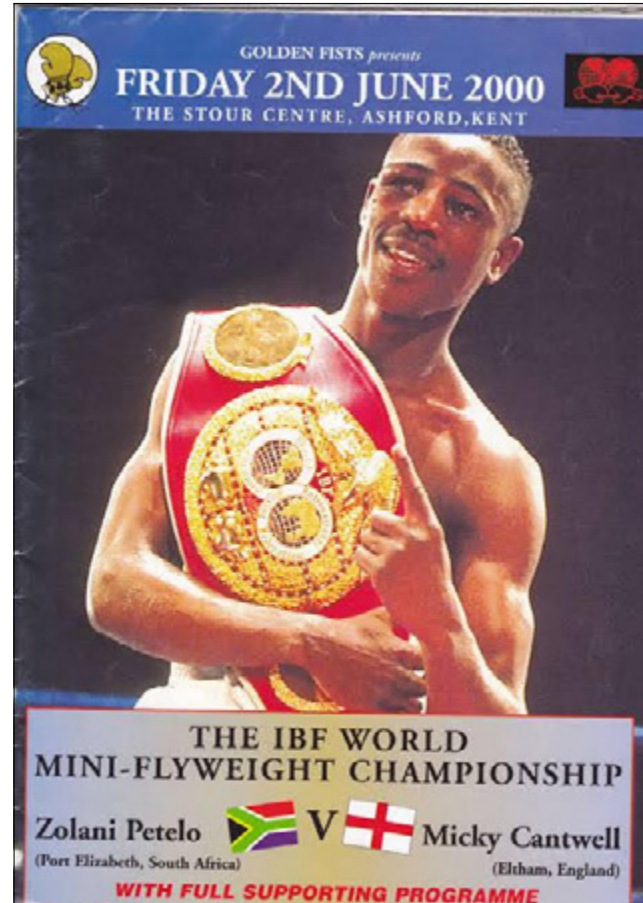
When boxing was still segregated between white and non-white champions, Christopher “Chris Kid” Dlamini made history in becoming a dual South African champion, in the flyweight (50.80 kg) and bantamweight (53.4 kg) division. This was before a 52.16 kg limit was accepted as a new division, the Junior Bantamweight, which other sanctioning bodies like the World Boxing Council (WBC) refer to as Super Flyweight.

Lesley “Vuka” Pikoli also won the same version of the national crown while Phindile “Slow Poison” Gaika made history in beating KZN’s Joseph “Usuthu” Ngubane to win the SA Bantamweight Supreme Title in Mdantsane, East London in 1983.

Boxers like Phumzile “Sweet Boy” Madikane, Linda “Black Mamba” Nondzaba, Vuyani “Wonder Boy” Nene, Simon Maseko, Mpisekhaya “Phantom Killer” Mbaduli, Nkosana Vaaltyn, Sandile Mentile, Mbulelo Nyanda, Phindile “Again” Ngingi, Thembelani Maphuma, Xola Mayana, Bulelani “The General” Ndwayana and Mthuthuzeli “Skeleton” Nene won national and international titles while Mzukisi “Laciar” Sikali, Zolani “The Tiger” Petelo and Lindi “School Boy” Memani, who left these shores for greener pastures in East London and Gauteng respectively, went on to win world titles.

Sikali, who was under the tutelage of former world champion Harold “The Hammer” Volbrecht in Jozi, won three world titles in three different weight divisions (the WBU light-flyweight, IBO flyweight and the WBU super-flyweight). Under Mzimasi “Bra Mzi” Mnguni, Petelo won the IBF world mini-flyweight title while Memani grabbed the WBU title in the same mini-flyweight division.

Nelson Mandela Bay produced a number of provincial champions and hot prospects that include Jerry “Beirut Bomber” Ngobeni,



Mthobeli “Frazer” Ndzandze, Tsitsi Sokutu, Sigigi Nekile and Thozamile “Stallion” Fumbeza during the era of administrators like Willie van Tonder, Welcome “Bra Well” Duru, Gosley Speedo Nondumo and Tennyson Mackay.



Great trainer/managers and promoters like Knight Mtya, Ambrose Dlula, Badman Wellem, Yusef Abubakar Mtoba, Zolisa Mlahleki, Elias Mzilikazi, David Pankie Fass, Chief Masemola, Cola Fulela, Martin Dyer, Jimmy Nobebe, Mncedisi Kortman, Zolile “Ace” Nqana, Martin Dyer, Tallman Mlenze, Spinks Sigula, Delihlazo Nene, Chief Oliphant, Crosby Mngxilo, Vukile Blouw, Mnini Frans, David Goliath, Mzukisi Dladla, Thembile Shushwana, Zimisele Hempe and Bonakele Jolingana cannot be forgotten.

Some of the great boxers produced include Brown Bomber Mqina, Vuyo Tulwana, Lumkile “Young Clay” Dunjana, Fikile Qubantu, Xhanti Singaphi, Aubrey Peta, twins Ngqika and Phalo Tshume, Pillay Duiker, Ngcambaza Mbaduli, Dlebusuku Mbaduli, Loyiso Ngxabazi, Zamuxolo Bheyi, Koko Tshamlambo, Motsamai Marele and Mzukisi Oliphant. The list is endless.

Some ring officials like timekeeper Michael Kitching, former star boxer and provincial champion Terrence “Ace” Makaluza as well as Mthunzi Mapitiza, who also graduated to become a BSA Nelson Mandela Bay Provincial Manager, were internationally recognised.

Great respect should also be given to medical practitioner Dr May Magwayi who worked very hard for the erstwhile Eastern Province boxing development during the turbulent 1980s and early 1990s. Ring announcer Mike Phantsi made his mark. The same can be said of the late award-winning female boxing promoter Gladys “Noforty” Tsenene. China Mdlalo, Lesley Hope and Lungisani Jikani became Eastern Cape champions.

Boxing fans like Xolile Mbetha, Bassie Zinto, Lulama Mayedwa and Wela Matomela among others, travelled all over the country to watch PE boxers fight.



In the last five of the thirty years of the boxing boom, Nceba Dladla took the reigns as BSA Provincial Manager after the passing of Mthunzi Mapitiza.

Dladla worked with promoters like Mbali Zantsi, Mashapi Ngcukana, Boniswa Lamani, Sibongile Nkebe and Mbulelo Mfama, together with ring officials Prince Mbambaza, Nonelwa Fukutwa, Sithembiso Kiti, Nkosinathi Zamela, Stephen Simon, Phindile Ngingi, Vuyokazi Ncata, Vusumzi Saule, Lizo Jordan, Siya Vabaza-Booi and Siyabulela Petrus, among others to keep the home fires burning.

Trainers like Caiphus Ntante, who has won more titles than any other manager/trainer in the Metro, Simphiwe Nana, Louis Phillip, Mzwandile Sidina, Ndumiso Fina, Sipho Tonyela, Bulelani Ndwayana, Vicky Simpson and Wayne Wewege produced champions like Nozipho Bell (SA Female Jnr Lightweight title, two times, IBF Intercontinental title and WBF International titles), Razel Mohamad (SA Female Cruiserweight title), Monalisa Takane (BSA Female Prospect of the Year 2023), Mziwoxolo Ndwayana (SA and EC Jnr Middleweight champion), Sanele Magwaza (WBF International Jnr Featherweight), Thembani Okolo (WBF International Mini-flyweight), Siphosethu Ncisana (WBF Africa Mini-flyweight), Ivan Strydom (Heavyweight), JP Pretorius (Light-heavyweight), Asanda Jacobs (heavyweight), Masixole Botile (Middleweight), Owethu Rula (Female Flyweight) with Durandt Verwey (Middleweight) and Michael Darries (Bantamweight) winning provincial titles.





Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality's development of sports infrastructure benefits local communities

The Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality has since the advent of democracy initiated and developed infrastructural projects focusing on the building and upgrading of community centres and multi-purpose centres to support human settlements.

Some of these were funded by the Urban Settlements Development Grant (USDG), which supports projects like multi-purpose centres and swimming pools for social development value across the Metro.

It must be said that the development of sporting facilities is linked with the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Budgeting, to encourage:

- Youth development, through sports and recreation;
- Community building, by providing shared, safe spaces;
- Skills development, and local economic development, as well as
- Health and wellness, through recreational facilities

The following centres have been established over the past three decades:

- The Soweto-On-Sea multi-purpose centre (was built in 2011 with the assistance of the Human Settlements Directorate).
- The OR Tambo multi-purpose centre at Tambo Village, KwaLanga, Kariega (which was vandalised, but later rebuilt in 2022).
- The Chatty sports centre (was completed in partnership with Human Settlements through the Housing Development Agency (HDA)).
- The multi-purpose centre around Walmer Township (was built through a USDG grant).

- Wells Estate.
- Govan Mbeki Location (which was handed over to the community in 2011).
- George Botha indoor sports centre (where boxing, karate and netball is taking place)
- Sizakele Konzi sports centre, KwaNobuhle.
- Babs Madlakane sports centre, KwaNobuhle.
- Raymond Mhlaba indoor sports centre (was built in Motherwell, and communities take part in basketball, netball, karate and weightlifting).

Residents, community structures, ward committees and sporting federations have always been urged to guard jealously against vandalism and abuse of these facilities as they benefit local communities. Facility Management Committees have been organised for many of them to provide oversight.

It must also be mentioned that these facilities have been used as temporary housing for victims of disasters such as flooding and raging fires in recent years.



Tourism a driving force for economic growth in Nelson Mandela Bay

Over the past 30 years, tourism in Nelson Mandela Bay has seen substantial growth and development, marked by significant events, infrastructure development and upgrades, and environmental milestones.

Some of these highlights include:



Events

The 2010 FIFA World Cup and the 2018 Ironman World Championships were pivotal in positioning and attracting visitors to Nelson Mandela Bay. These events have contributed tremendously to international visitor arrivals. High-profile events like these not only showcased the Metro on a global stage, but also significantly enhanced its appeal as a tourist destination, highlighting how important these international events are for the Metro. There are various other events such as the annual Ironman Africa, cycle tours, golf tournaments, rugby, soccer, cricket, other sports and various heritage, arts, and music events that have contributed to the growth of the tourism sector over the last three decades.

Tourism Infrastructure Developments

A series of major infrastructure projects have contributed to the region's attractiveness. The Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium, a centrepiece of the 2010 World Cup, has become a landmark for both sports and cultural events. The upgrade of Route 67, including the Donkin Reserve and the Campanile, has enriched the Metro's historical and cultural narrative. Enhancements to St Peter's Anglican Church and the development of the Emlotheni and Mendi Arts Centre have further diversified cultural attractions. The redevelopment of Baywest Mall and the Boardwalk Mall has improved retail and leisure options, boosting the Metro's appeal to both residents and tourists.

Cruise Tourism

With the implementation of the Metro's cruise tourism strategy, the Metro has been able to greatly improve the number of cruise liners docking in the Gqeberha harbour, with approximately 40 cruises per season carrying over 70 000 passengers and crew.

This growth has increased opportunities for local tour guides, operators, and businesses in general. The Metro's proximity to Big 5 game reserves has been one of the key draw cards.



Pipeline Tourism Developments

Exciting future catalytic projects include the planned redevelopment of Bayworld, which promises to enhance its appeal as a marine and cultural attraction. Additionally, the development of the International Convention Centre (ICC), the Tower of Light, the Addo Road, the proposed waterfront and other initiatives, are expected to further stimulate tourism and economic growth.

Environmental Milestones

Nelson Mandela Bay has made significant strides in environmental conservation. The declaration of part of Algoa Bay as a Marine Protected Area and the designation of the region as a Whale Heritage Site highlight its commitment to preserve marine biodiversity. The area has also been recognised as an International Hope Spot for the African Penguin, and as the Bottlenose Dolphin Capital of the World. All these are greatly improving opportunities for whale-watching and ocean safaris. The establishment of various Blue Flag

beaches and the recent introduction of 11 Green Flag Trails reflect the region's dedication to maintain high environmental standards leading to increased attractiveness to visitors. Addo Elephant National Park's expansion and the growth of various private game reserves in and around Nelson Mandela Bay, such as Nyosi recently introducing elephants, has seen Nelson Mandela Bay becoming the home of the Big 7 in South Africa and serves as one of the major drawing cards for tourists to the Metro.

Tourism business ownership and transformation

While celebrating the gains of 30 years of democracy, the disparities between black- vs white-owned tourism businesses remain high, with an estimated 10% of black-owned tourism businesses out of an estimated 4 000 existing tourism businesses. The plight for participation of women, youth and people with disabilities remain one of the fundamental challenges in the tourism industry.





Celebrating rugby excellence in the 30 years of freedom and democracy

From the dusty fields of Zwide township to the grand stages of the Rugby World Cup, South Africa celebrates three decades of freedom and democracy through the unifying power of sport.

SA Rugby captain Siya Kolisi and coach, Rassie Erasmus proudly mark the journey of triumph and transformation in sport. As the Springboks successfully defended their title to become back-to-back Rugby World Cup champions, the duo from Nelson Mandela Bay carried with them the hopes of a nation and the legacy of those who dared to dream.

Kolisi won the prestigious Web Ellis Trophy with coach Jacques Nienaber in 2023 while the feat was achieved with Rassie Erasmus of Despatch in 2019.

From the heart of Nelson Mandela Bay - where the spirit of the game thrives in township schools and community fields - we want to honour our grassroots heroes and future stars.

Siya Kolisi, from Zwide township in Gqeberha, rose through the ranks to become South Africa's first black captain to lift the Webb Ellis Cup - twice. His journey symbolises the power of opportunity, unity, and belief.

Kolisi's triumph is not only a testament to his own tenacity, but also to the impact of community sport and development programs that began on the fields of Zwide township schools long before the advent of democracy.

The Springboks beat their nemesis New Zealand 12-11 in the grand finale at Stade de France in Paris on Saturday, 28 October 2023, in defence of the title they won against England in 2019.

This celebration is more than a sporting milestone. It is a tribute to resilience, development, and the promise of a brighter, inclusive future.

As South Africa marks 30 years of freedom and democracy, Nelson Mandela Bay stands tall as a beacon of hope, determination, and progress. Named after the global icon of peace and justice, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, the city continues to produce stories that reflect the spirit of transformation he dedicated his life to.

Nelson Mandela Bay has long been a nurturing ground for talent. The city's passion for rugby is deeply rooted, with local clubs, schools, and coaches playing a pivotal role in shaping the dreams of young athletes. In this way, the Springboks' continued global success also becomes a victory for grassroots development and the transformative power of sport.

In Siya Kolisi's own words, "I come from a place where people didn't have much, but we had each other, and we had dreams." His story is a tribute to what is possible when opportunity meets support, and when a community believes in its children.

As we celebrate 30 years of democracy, Siya Kolisi stands as a son of Nelson Mandela Bay, a product of its unwavering spirit, and a reflection of the enduring legacy of Madiba himself - a nation united, stronger together.



IRONMAN – a success story like no other

When speaking or thinking about IRONMAN, words like determination, grit and endurance immediately comes to mind. Since the very first official event was held in 2005 with 786 competitors until now, twenty years later, IRONMAN has become synonymous with Nelson Mandela Bay, and it keeps on growing in numbers each year.

When the first test event was held in 2004 over a distance of 70.3 with 436 participants in Port Elizabeth, no one was prepared for the success story the IRONMAN African Championship was to become.



History

- The first ever IRONMAN South Africa in Nelson Mandela Bay was held in 2005 with Spec-Savers as title sponsor. (Please note that IRONMAN South Africa was first held in Gordon's Bay in 2000 and 2001 under different licence-holders. It was brought back to South Africa in 2005).
- Significant changes to the course was introduced in 2014, such as a single loop for the swimming leg and two loops for the bike course instead of the usual three.
- The 10-year anniversary in 2015 was characterised by the event being streamed live online, the first one in South Africa at the time to introduce the mobile network coverage solution, which is common in sport broadcasting nowadays.
- The event became a regional championship race in 2016, the IRONMAN African Championship, and one of five regional championships globally. It was also the year Standard Bank became title sponsor.
- The first ever full live broadcast on national television followed in 2017. It was also the first time ever any IRONMAN race received a full 17-hour live broadcast on a national television station.
- Nelson Mandela Bay hosted the IRONMAN 70.3 World Championship in 2018, the first time the 70.3 World Championship was hosted in Africa and only the third time it was hosted outside of North America, the other two places being Zell am Zee in Austria and the Gold Coast in Australia. ISUZU was the title sponsor for this event.



- Following the 70.3 World Championship, changes were made to the IRONMAN African Championship race set-up in 2019, with the swim start and transition moving to King's Beach.
- The 2020 race didn't take place due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The 2021 race was held in September due to the country just coming out of the Covid-19 lockdown.
- IRONMAN 70.3 Nelson Mandela Bay was added to the race weekend in 2022, taking place simultaneously with the IRONMAN African Championship. It was also the year in which ISUZU became title sponsor for all IRONMAN races in South Africa.
- The swim start and transition moved back to Hobie Beach in 2023.
- On the 20th anniversary in 2025, the course set-up returned to the original of a two-loop swim and three-loop bike leg, and also became part of the IRONMAN Pro Series for 2025.



The perfect venue

Nelson Mandela Bay is one of the most athlete-friendly IRONMAN venues in the world with the swim start, transition, finish-line, race village and registration venue all within a few hundred metres of each other. The distance between the airport and race venue is another unique selling point, and something that is not easily found at many of the other IRONMAN races.

The support from residents is world-renowned and one of the highlights often mentioned by international athletes and top professionals. Spectators lining Marine Drive with gazebos and portable braais is certainly not to be found anywhere else in the world.

Besides these unique characteristics, Nelson Mandela Bay is currently also one of the longest running IRONMAN host cities on the world IRONMAN circuit. Only Lanzarote, Spain; Taupo, New Zealand; Frankfurt, Germany and Klagenfurt, Austria have seen longer stints.

Economic boost

The annual influx of international and local athletes, supporters, friends and family has created a steady economic boost for Nelson Mandela Bay with an increase in the occupancy rate of local hotels and guesthouses, especially along the beachfront and surrounding areas. The successful hosting of the event has also helped to cement Nelson Mandela Bay's image as a preferred sporting as well as tourist destination.

Interesting facts

IRONMAN South Africa was modelled on IRONMAN Kaarten-Klagenfurt Austria, which is one of the most iconic IRONMAN events in the world.

The two South Africans who have managed to clinch the IRONMAN South Africa title, Raynard Tissink and Kyle Buckingham, both hail from Nelson Mandela Bay.



Celebrating 25 years of the Coega Development Corporation: A catalyst for economic transformation

As the Coega Development Corporation (Coega) marks its 25th anniversary, it stands as a testament to the power of strategic vision and resilient execution in driving socio-economic development.

Established in 1999, Coega has evolved from a bold initiative to a critical player in South Africa's economic landscape, particularly in the Eastern Cape, shares Mr Themba Koza, Chief Executive Officer of the Coega Development Corporation.

Coega's journey not only reflects the challenges and triumphs of a developing nation but underscores the importance of infrastructure, investment, and innovation in fostering sustainable growth.

The Coega Development Corporation is headquartered in the City of Gqeberha, Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, South Africa, with a strategic operational footprint in South Africa and beyond the borders on the African continent. Coega's vision is to be the leading catalyst for the championing of socio-economic development. This it seeks to achieve through the development and operation of the 9 003-hectare Coega Special Economic Zone (SEZ), a transshipment hub and a leading investment destination in Africa, providing

highly skilled competence and capacity for the execution of complex infrastructure and related projects throughout South Africa and selected markets on the African continent, and advisory on the development of industrialisation and logistics zones.

Coega's advanced capabilities are successful enablers in sustainable economic zone development and management, real assets management, infrastructure planning and development, technology integration while realising related socio-economic impact areas such as skills and SMME development.

Its high-performance ethos is grounded in its commitment to sustainable development, the protection of its people and the planet, and the delivery of infrastructure solutions that support a just social and economic transition to a low-carbon, resource efficient, and climate resilient future. The foundational culture of Coega's approach, backed by its core values, is innovation and continuous improvement.



Coega is an organisation that enables sustainable socio-economic development in South Africa, through investment, infrastructure development and facilities management, SMME development, mentorship, and the facilitation of skills development and capacity building.

Coega has a range of pronunciations that reflect the economic, environmental and social diversity of Nelson Mandela Bay. Coega is widely pronounced as “Koo-gha” with a guttural sound forming the last syllable. It is derived from the ancient Khoi-San word for “ground river”, which aptly describes the arid environment of the area with its vast artesian groundwater resources. The Khoi-San were the

original inhabitants of the Bay, and their rich click-filled language has influenced many other languages throughout Africa. Seventy percent of Khoi-San words start with a click, and only one language outside of Africa uses clicks (Damin, a ritual vocabulary of the Lardil in Australia).

The Xhosa word for Coega is “Ngqura”, the variation used for the port adjacent to the SEZ. The deepwater Port of Ngqura adds to the Coega SEZ’s value proposition as being a preferred investment destination in Africa. Pronouncing “Ngqura” correctly requires the ability to sound the click used in the isiXhosa language.

Coega's inception was rooted in a vision to create a world-class development zone that would attract investment, create jobs, and help stimulate regional development. Over the years, Coega has succeeded in attracting significant foreign and domestic investments, becoming a linchpin for economic activity in the region.

With over 60 operational investors across 14 sector-specific zones—including manufacturing, logistics, and renewable energy, Coega exemplifies how targeted developmental strategies can create ripple effects across various industries. Notable projects include the R3bn Stellantis Middle East and Africa Manufacturing Plant in Zone 2, the completion of the R60m Orion Engineered Carbons Oil Tank Project Zone 7, the development of the R1bn Coega SEZ Biofibre Hub Project in Zone 3, the Coega SEZ Solar Rooftop Project under the first limited recourse capital transaction in the public sector, and the planned R105bn Hive Hydrogen Green Ammonia Project.

The establishment of the Port of Ngqura within the Coega SEZ has been particularly transformative. As one of the deepest ports in Africa, it enables efficient maritime trade and logistics, positioning the Eastern Cape as a key player in global supply chains. The port's strategic significance cannot be overstated; it not only facilitates exports but also attracts industries that rely on maritime connectivity.



Managed by the Transnet National Ports Authority, the Port of Ngqura is equipped with world-class infrastructure and has become one of South Africa's most important trade gateways. Its deep-water harbour makes it suitable for handling large vessels and various types of high-volume cargo, positioning it as one of the leading ports on the African continent. The Port of Ngqura supports the growing automotive and manufacturing industries, which are vital to the region's economy.

One of Coega's most commendable achievements has been its impact on job creation. Coega has played a crucial role in helping to reduce the unemployment rate in the Eastern Cape by creating 175 186 direct and indirect jobs since inception. This achievement is not merely about numbers; it speaks to the lives transformed through stable employment and skills development.

Coega understands that sustainable job creation is intrinsically linked to skills development. Through various training programmes and partnerships with educational institutions, Coega has fostered a skilled workforce ready to meet the demands of modern industries. This commitment to human capital development is vital for ensuring that local communities benefit from the economic activities generated by the SEZ. The Coega Skills Development Centre, for example, significantly impacts communities by equipping individuals with in-demand artisanal skills. In the 2023/24 financial year alone, over 4 000 people received training to improve their employability.

In an era increasingly defined by environmental challenges, Coega has embraced sustainability as a cornerstone of its development strategy. The Corporation has spearheaded initiatives in renewable energy, particularly solar and wind projects, aligning with global trends towards greener economies. By prioritising sustainability, Coega not only addresses environmental concerns but also positions itself as a forward-thinking leader in the industrial sector. With a view to drive sustainable socio-economic development, Coega prioritises environmental impact assessments and the efficient allocation of resources during the project management process.

Innovation remains at the heart of Coega's strategy. Coega has actively sought to attract technology-driven companies, fostering an ecosystem that encourages research, development, and innovation. This approach is crucial for ensuring the long-term viability of the region's industries, especially as global markets evolve, and new technologies emerge.

While Coega's achievements are noteworthy, the road ahead is not without its challenges. Economic volatility, changing global trade dynamics, and local socio-economic issues require adaptive strategies and resilient leadership. Coega must continue to innovate and stay ahead of trends, particularly as South Africa navigates its recovery from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moreover, the importance of inclusivity cannot be overstated. As Coega continues to expand, engaging local communities and ensuring that the benefits of development reach all sectors of society will be paramount. Collaborative efforts involving government, the private sector, and civil society will be essential in addressing disparities and fostering an equitable economic environment.

As we celebrate 25 years of the Coega Development Corporation, we are reminded of the profound impact that visionary initiatives can have on regional development. Coega's journey is a story of resilience, innovation, and commitment to sustainable growth.

Looking ahead, Coega holds the potential to not only transform the Eastern Cape but serve as a model for development across Africa. Coega's next chapter is not only about economic metrics; it is about fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable future for generations to come.



The Herald through the ages

It was at a civic function on 14 September 1995, to mark the 150th anniversary of The Herald, where former statesman Nelson Mandela aptly described the role of the newspaper and what it has meant for the people of Nelson Mandela Bay through the ages.

In his speech, a mere two months from the first democratic local government elections, Mandela said that it was rare that a commercial newspaper's anniversary should serve as a focal point of a community's sense of togetherness.

"It's rarer still that this should be the case in these early days of our democracy, when the old still pervades and blemishes many facets of the new.



"That this should be so with the 150th anniversary of the Eastern Province Herald represents Port Elizabeth's confidence in the future; a confidence issuing from present attempts to make that future truly better for one city, one community and one people."

And then Madiba went on to encapsulate the essence of the role of the media, particularly in a democratic South Africa.

He said: "The 150th birthday of The Herald marks the close of an era and the beginning of a new one. In just under two months, Port Elizabeth and hundreds of other towns and villages will have democratic local government elections, a historic rupture of the past.

"The same can be said of The Herald. If in the past it was a light in the darkness of colonialism and apartheid, today The Herald can act as a clear mirror against which the light of our democracy should reflect, with its brightness and clarity, at times, with its imperfections."

And then came these words which reminded all journalists and editors in the media industry of their duty to all audiences – one that is both powerful and humbling.

He said: "The media can fulfil their responsibility to communities only if they are independent, vigorous and critical."



“The media can fulfil their responsibility to communities only if they are independent, vigorous and critical.” - Nelson Mandela

We believe that this still holds true today. The work that The Herald, and all media alike, does every single day comes with a great sense of responsibility to not only be the watchdog of society, to educate and to inform, but to also mirror the communities in which it operates and to be the voice of those people.

This grand old dame, the oldest newspaper in the country, turns 180 years old this year. A lot has changed since its early formation when then Port Elizabeth only had 3 000 residents. We now serve hundreds of thousands of print and digital audiences in the format of their choice.

From the time of its first edition on 7 May 1845, by founder John Paterson, a Scottish schoolteacher, businessman and politician, The Herald has captured the history of Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth), Kariega (formerly Uitenhage) and Despatch, as well as the surrounding areas, like no other entity in the Bay.

Some of the highlight moments over the years that were captured in ink on paper include the first cricket test match played in South Africa at the Port Elizabeth Cricket Club grounds on 12 March 1889.

This publication captured the opening of the Ford Motor Company in the city in 1924, General Motors establishing a factory in 1926, the last VW Beetle rolling off the production line in Uitenhage, and the Great Floods of 1968.

Journalists keenly covered Mandela's release from prison and the first democratic elections. (Fun fact: Due to a shortage of ballot papers during the 1994 elections, The Herald's printing press was called upon to print millions of ballots so that voting in the province could continue).

On 22 March 1995, The Herald captured the visit of Queen Elizabeth II to Port Elizabeth, and a few months later, Nceba Faku, the first democratically elected mayor of the city was installed.

And then the responsibility of telling the story of a new democratic SA, the successes and where things went wrong.

From the HIV/Aids misnomers in the mid-2000s, to the corruption allegations against senior political leaders threatening the stability of government, The Herald used its pages to capture it all.

In December 2013, when Mandela passed away, this newspaper stopped the press after midnight and printed a fitting tribute to this elder statesman who carried the hopes and aspirations of all South Africans.

Other highlights over the years include the Fees Must Fall movement in 2015, a change in government in Nelson Mandela Bay for the first time, which saw a coalition government installed, and then came the Gupta leaks and state capture allegations which came to the fore in 2017.

In 2018, Jacob Zuma resigned as President of SA, and that same year The Herald went digital with its new HeraldLIVE online platform.



The following year, the newspaper made the decision to sell the historic Newspaper House building, moving to new premises in the Greenacres area that fits in with its newly cultivated news organisation that is modern and keeping up with world media trends.

In 2019, the Springboks' first black captain Siya Kolisi, who hails from Gqeberha, led his team through the streets of the City after winning the Rugby World Cup. The Herald was there to capture it all.

In July 2021, Zuma was arrested – the first time that a president is arrested in SA – and this sparked unprecedented riots across the country. The residents of Gqeberha, with the support of the taxi industry, bucked the trend and chose to protect the City instead.

Later the same year, another coalition government was installed in the Bay after the local government elections.

Fast-forward to 2024, the ANC lost an outright majority in the general elections for the first time since 1994, forcing it to work with other political parties to form a government of national unity.

The last 179 years have been a whirlwind, and the advancement of technology has had an impact on the news media industry on a global scale.

But as there continues to be assaults on media freedom, declining advertising revenues, falling circulation, The Herald leads the social media and online conversation in this region with just under 400 000 Facebook followers, a few thousands shy of a million monthly unique browsers on our HeraldLIVE website, and 128 000 readers (readership figures). Our readership is now 53% black and 47% coloured, white and Indian.

The Herald continues to take its role as a forerunner voice of the Bay seriously, and though the times have forced us to do things differently, we remain committed to providing a mirror to our society, reflecting its joys and pain, the good and the bad, all for the amazing people of our beautiful City.





30 Years of Democracy at Volkswagen Group Africa

Since August 1951, Volkswagen Group Africa (VWGA) has been building quality Volkswagen vehicles at its plant in Kariega (previously Uitenhage). There have been countless milestones and achievements in the past 73 years, and many of these highlights have occurred during the past 30 years of democracy in South Africa.



Product

One of the most iconic vehicles built at the Kariega plant was the Transporter Kombi. The Kariega plant began building this model in 1955, and ended the vehicle's 47-year run in 2002.

The plant also built the legendary Citi Golf for 25 years, finishing up production of this model in 2009.

Currently the plant builds the popular Polo Vivo for the local market (since 2010) and the Polo for the local and 38 export markets. Kariega is the sole manufacturer of the Polo GTi worldwide, and as of 1 July 2024 the sole manufacturer of Polo hatchback vehicles for export to EU and Asia Pacific markets.

The plant achieved the milestone of 4 million vehicles manufactured in Kariega by 2020. The record for production in a single year was in 2019, when the plant built 161 954 vehicles.

People

In 2016 the company established the Volkswagen B-BBEE Initiatives Trust, with the aim of increasing the number of black-owned suppliers and businesses in the automotive sector value chain.

Volkswagen Group Africa was named as a Top Employer in 2024 for the 13th consecutive year.

The company has been prioritising transformation, and it shows: in 2024, 22,6% of the company's 3 404 employees are women (compared to 11,6% in 2004), and 85% of employees are "Black" (in the B-BBEE definition) compared to 73,6% in 2004.

In line with this transformation, Martina Biene was appointed as the first female Chairperson and Managing Director of VWGA in 2022.

CSI

Through the Volkswagen Community Trust and other projects, an estimated R570 million has been invested in CSI projects since 1994. Around 84% of the CSI budget is spent on education, youth development and community well-being.

The loveLife Y-Centre in Kariega was built in 2012 with an investment of R20 million. A further R20 million has been invested in the centre since then. This centre has impacted the lives of 350 000 youth.

The company has hosted 38 Show of Hands employee volunteer events since 2011. A total of 2 186 employees contribute to CSI projects every month through their voluntary One Hour for the Future contribution, deducted from salaries. From these contributions, the Ikhwezi Lomso Early Childhood Development Centre was opened in Kariega in 2011. A total of 1 202 children have benefited from Ikhwezi Lomso to date.

Youth development is a priority for the company. More than 3 000 unemployed youth have been given work experience through Volkswagen's participation in the YES programme since 2019.

Since the start of the Community Trust's Legacy Literacy programme in 2019, 6 854 children have benefited from the various activities of

the programme, aimed at eradicating illiteracy among children below the age of 10 years.

In partnership with the South African business incubator Raizcorp, Volkswagen Group Africa established the Volkswagen Business Support Centre in April 2011. The Business Support Centre has since generated R651 million in turnover through the businesses it supports.

The Community Trust has invested an estimated R70 million in support of external NGO partners since 1994.



VIP visits

In 1995, shortly after the dawn of democracy in South Africa, the newly elected President Nelson Mandela visited Volkswagen's plant in Kariega.

His successor, President Thabo Mbeki, was the guest of honour years later at the opening of our R750 million Paint Shop in 2006.



Company Investments

Volkswagen invested R6,1 billion in the Kariega plant in 2018, in preparation to build the new Polo.

The VW AutoPavilion museum was opened in 2004 following an investment of R13 million; the AutoPavilion is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

The VW PeoplePavilion, a sports and recreational facility for the use of employees, also celebrated its 10th birthday in 2023. This R30 million centre was opened in December 2013.

Africa

Volkswagen Group Africa opened its first Sub-Saharan Africa assembly facility outside of South Africa, in Kenya in 2016. Following this, Volkswagen Mobility Solutions Rwanda was launched in 2018 and Volkswagen Ghana in 2020.

In early 2024, the company announced its name would be changed to Volkswagen Group Africa, demonstrating its commitment to growing the Volkswagen footprint and increasing sustainable mobility on the African continent.





Continental Tyre South Africa: A legacy of innovation and excellence in local manufacturing

Continental Tyre South Africa (CTSA) has been a cornerstone of local manufacturing since its inception in 1947, contributing significantly to South Africa's economy and the mobility sector. Established as the General Tire and Rubber Company by the Williams Hunt Group and General Tire USA, the company laid the foundation for its legacy in the Eastern Cape, producing high-quality tyres for various markets. Over the years, CTSA evolved in step with global advancements, reflecting the dynamism and innovation at the heart of the automotive industry.



A pivotal moment in the company's history came in 1985 when Continental AG and General Tyre South Africa entered into an agreement to manufacture Continental-branded tyres locally. This partnership marked the beginning of CTSA's integration into the broader Continental network, eventually leading to its acquisition by Continental AG in 1998. Renamed Continental Tyre South Africa (Pty) Ltd, the company became a prominent player in both the local and global markets. In 2013, Continental AG further solidified its commitment to the South African operation, acquiring full ownership of CTSA, a move that further bolstered its position in the tyre manufacturing industry.

Today, CTSA operates as the sole Continental plant in Africa, employing over 1 000 people across its manufacturing, marketing, and sales divisions. Its products serve a diverse range of markets, from supplying original equipment to South Africa's leading vehicle manufacturers, to providing high-performance tyres for the replacement market, and exporting to markets worldwide. Through its strategic investments in technology and state-of-the-art production processes, CTSA remains at the forefront of tyre innovation, ensuring it continues to meet the demands of both local and global customers.



The company's success is driven not only by its world-class products but by the passionate people who form its backbone. CTSA shares in the diverse heritage of the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, where it has built strong ties with the local community. The company takes pride in its workforce, which represents the dynamic and multicultural nature of the region. CTSA's commitment to fostering innovation, creativity, and excellence has been instrumental in shaping its proud legacy, which spans over seven decades. It is this dedication that will continue to propel the company forward as it embarks on the next chapter of its

journey, contributing to South Africa's mobility landscape and playing a crucial role in the country's economic growth.

As Continental Tyre South Africa reflects on its rich history and looks towards the future, the company remains steadfast in its purpose - to deliver safe and reliable tyres that connect families, fuel discoveries, and inspire innovation. This purpose-driven approach is a testament to CTSA's unwavering commitment to the people of South Africa and the broader continent, ensuring that it remains a trusted partner for years to come.

