



**Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality  
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To: Shadow Minister for Sport, Arts and Culture, Tsepo Mhlongo.  
5<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Shadow Minister,

The recent announcement by the Eastern Cape Geographical Names Committee to approve the name change of Port Elizabeth to Gqeberha is a very problematic development. The objections that were submitted by the residents of Nelson Mandela Bay was rejected and the committee has decided to forge ahead with the proposed name changes.


Port Elizabeth doesn't need a new name, it needs a new government that will deal with the serious issues that affects the 1.4 million residents of Nelson Mandela Bay. The lack of service delivery and providing the most basic of services has been a hallmark of the ANC led coalition government in Nelson Mandela Bay.

The impact of the name change would also be detrimental to the tourism industry in Nelson Mandela Bay. Businesses which are already under severe strain to turn a profit would be faced with another financial burden to update their signage and information in order to be competitive.

The Eastern Cape Geographical Names Committee has indicated that they will submit it to the South African Geographical Names Committee and this will then be submitted to the Minister of Arts and Culture to give the final approval and sign it off.

I request your urgent intervention by taking this matter up directly with the Minister of Arts and Culture, Nkosinathi Mthetwa, in order to prevent this name change from being approved.

Yours faithfully



**Renaldo Gouws  
Spokesperson for Economic Development, Tourism and Agriculture  
Nelson Mandela Bay**