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EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
Member of the Provincial Legislature

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To: Honourable Parks Tau
Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC)
Pretoria

Dear Minister Tau,

RE: REQUEST FOR MEETING AND COLLABORATION ON THE BIG-SIX INDUSTRIAL ZONE RENEWAL PROGRAM IN NELSON MANDELA BAY (NMB)

I am writing to inform you of a plan focused on local economic revitalisation and to request a meeting to explore potential avenues for collaboration and support from the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC).

This week I announced the **Big-Six Industrial Zone Renewal Program**, which a DA-led government will implement in NMB. This program is specifically designed to halt the spiralling decline of our industrial heartlands—which currently suffer from crumbling infrastructure, neglected and abandoned properties, and poor public safety—and actively restore investor confidence.

The program will target the following six key industrial zones that are vital to the Metro's economy: **North End, Uitenhage/Kariega, Struandale, Deal Party, Perseverance, and Markman.**

Our commitment under this program is to ensure a DA-led NMB municipality immediately prioritises the core infrastructure necessary for business success:

- **Maintenance and Repairs:** Focused, sustained maintenance and repair programs for road, electrical, stormwater, and sanitation infrastructure.
- **Security and By-Law Enforcement:** Implementation of a dedicated network of security cameras and the deployment of dedicated rangers, supported by Metro and Traffic Police, to oversee by-law enforcement and secure these areas.

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Regular workshops and information sessions for business owners on safety protocols, by-laws, and infrastructure upgrade schedules.

Restoring these areas is essential to attract new investment, incentivise existing businesses, and stimulate much-needed job creation in the Metro. This decisive plan will send a clear message to both local and international investors that Nelson Mandela Bay is once again open for business and committed to supporting its industrial base.

The Quarterly Labour Force Survey for Q2 of 2025 (April-June) shows that NMB's official unemployment rate increased from 22.3% to 26.4%, and the expanded rate increased from 27.1% to 35%. Alarming, youth unemployment is nearer 50%.

For a Metro grappling with such high unemployment - especially among our youth - ensuring robust business growth shouldn't just be a written policy; it is the single most vital strategy for job creation. Its success is dependent on reliable municipal service delivery and infrastructure maintenance.

I would be most grateful for the opportunity to meet with you or your designated representative at your earliest convenience to formally outline our plans in detail and discuss what support, technical assistance, or partnership options the DTIC could provide to bolster this critical Big-Six Industrial Zone Renewal Program.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this urgent matter. I look forward to your positive response.

Yours sincerely,



RETIEF ODENDAAL, MPL

Shadow MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
Constituency Head: Southern and Western Suburbs NMB

Copied:

Cllr Rano Kayser, DA NMB Caucus Leader

Cllr Siyasanga Sijadu, DA NMB Caucus Spokesperson

Cllr Masixole Zinto, DA NMB Economic Development, Tourism and Agriculture
Spokesperson