public works & infrastructure
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Public Works and Infrastructure
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
PUBLIC WORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

PUBLIC WORKS CLEARS THE WAY FOR SIX SOUTH COAST BUSINESS PROPERTIES TO SECURE THEIR FUTURE

- Six South Coast businesses can now operate under their new leases after the Durban High Court cleared the way to do so after a previous interdict obtained by Ray Nkonyeni Municipality.
- The municipality has agreed to resolve the remaining dispute through mediation, which is the engagement the departments sought before the matter went to court.
- Jobs and investment at the six facilities are no longer on hold.

The Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Dean Macpherson, and the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Public Works and Infrastructure, Martin Meyer, welcome today's order of the Durban High Court.

The order clears six coastal businesses to trade under the leases concluded with the provincial Department after a landmark decision by the Minister to revoke operation of the properties by the municipality after years of mismanagement in favour of the Provincial Government.

On Sunday, 18 October 2026, Ray Nkonyeni Municipality obtained an interdict without the departments being heard or participating. The interdict halted a lease handover that business owners had waited years for. The Departments immediately moved to challenge it after they vowed to protect and defend businesses from abuse and uncertainty. Today, before the matter was argued, the municipality agreed to an order removing the following six facilities from the interdict:

- Palm Lagoon Leisure Centre / Jolly Joker Fun Pub & Grub, Hibberdene
- Marlin Ski Boat Club, Port Edward
- Tea House Blue Lagoon / Blue Lagoon Restaurant, Ramsgate
- Shelly Beach and Protea Ski Boat Club, Shelly Beach
- Southbroom Riptide Restaurant, Southbroom
- Trattoria La Terrazza, Umkobi Beach, Southbroom

The municipality has also agreed to refer the remaining questions about the 2016 Property Management Agreement and certain properties to mediation and, if necessary, arbitration.

"Our door has always been open. We tried to engage the municipality long before this went to court," said Minister Macpherson. "It is unfortunate that it took an urgent court application and

a cancelled handover to get here. Regrettably, this has also wasted local ratepayers and national taxpayers' hard-earned money on unnecessary legal costs. What matters today is that six businesses, and the people who work in them, can get on with trading and even begin to hire more workers. Public assets must work for the people of the South Coast, not sit tied up in red tape and wasteful court cases."

"These business owners were standing in Ramsgate ready to sign when the interdict landed and invest in their town. Today they have the certainty they need," said MEC Meyer. "The provincial Department will contact each of the six tenants directly. We welcome the municipality's agreement to sit around the table. That is where this should have been resolved from the start, and we will participate in good faith."

As the remaining issues are now subject to mediation, the Departments will not comment further on the merits of the dispute.

ENDS

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