

# CENTRE OF ATTENTION

The Coega Special Economic Zone stands out as a leading African hub of transformation and excellence



The Coega Development Corporation (CDC) is a state-owned enterprise in terms of the Public Finance Management Act. It is based in the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, with operations throughout SA.

The corporation is mandated to develop and operate the 9 003 ha Coega Special Economic Zone (SEZ), gazetted by then Minister of Trade and Industry Rob Davies (Government Gazette No. 40883 on 2 June 2017) in terms of Section 39(2) of the SEZ Act No. 16 of 2014, replacing Government Gazette No. 21803 of 1 December 2000, made in terms of the Manufacturing Development Act No. 187 of 1993.

In terms of the SEZ Act, the Eastern Cape provincial government's Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT) is the CDC's executive authority, with ordinary shares owned by the Eastern Cape provincial government.

The CDC board is the accounting authority and reports to the member of the executive council for Finance, Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Mlungisi Gerald Mvoko. The CDC's vision is to become the leading catalyst for the championing of socio-economic development, and its mission is to provide a competitive investment location supported by value-added business services that effectively enable socio-economic development.

The three key strategic goals of the CDC are to establish a preferred investment destination; secure financial sustainability and growth; and advance socio-economic development. In the 20 years since its establishment in 1999, the Coega SEZ has become one of the leading special economic zones on the continent. It is a gateway to African and global markets, a trans-shipment hub



**New investors in the Coega SEZ, the flagship in SA's SEZ programme, are scheduled to complete construction of their facilities soon**

and Southern Africa's most successful SEZ. The Coega SEZ has won prestigious awards in SA as well as the continent at large. They include the 2018 SA's Top Performing Public Sector Award; 2019 SA's Premier Business Investor of the Year Award; and the 2019 Best Regional International Trade and Development Organisation in South Africa.

Not only has Coega won these prestigious awards, it has also been certified in ISO standards of excellence (ISO 9001-Quality, ISO 14001-Environmental, OHSAS 18001-Occupational Health and Safety, ISO 20001-Information Technology and ISO 27001-Information Security).

The SEZ has been praised by world leaders on its astounding achievements. 'I've been to many developing countries and industrial development zones, the Coega SEZ is by far one of the best,' Li Yuanchao, former vice-president of the People's Republic of China, said on his visit to the Coega SEZ in 2016.

Coega has been named the flagship of the SEZ programme in SA. It is effectively the best functioning and most successful SEZ in the country, and boasts world-class infrastructure, management and corporate governance.

As a good corporate citizen, through the newly established Coega Development Foundation (a non-profit company), it has invested in various community-building projects, including its flagship driver-training programme, which assists unemployed youth and women obtain driver's licences at no cost, and a maths and physical science programme aimed at assisting Grade 12 learners improve their results. Other programmes includes short courses, learnerships, traditional apprenticeships and new national occupational certificates.

The Coega SEZ is purpose-designed, following the cluster model, which strategically positions related and synergistic industries as well as their supply chains in close proximity to one another in