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Author: CLIVE NDOU

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DA welcomes transfer of coastal properties from Ray Nkonyeni

CLIVE NDOU

The DA has welcomed the decision by Public Works and Infrastructure Minister Dean Macpherson to transfer the management of 15 state-owned properties along KwaZulu-Natal's South Coast from the ANC-led Ray Nkonyeni Municipality to the provincial Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

The transfer, marked by a joint visit from Macpherson and KZN MEC for Public Works Martin Meyer yesterday, is expected to bring relief to business owners who have long struggled under unstable leasing arrangements.

According to the DA, the move marks a turning point for the region's business and tourism sectors. "For far too long, local entrepreneurs, tourism operators and workers have suffered under unstable leasing arrangements that created administrative uncertainty and eroded investor confidence," said DA member of the KZN Legislature Riona Gokool, who is also the

party's Ugu South constituency head.

The termination of the 2016 management agreement with the Ray Nkonyeni Municipality and the direct oversight by the provincial department, Gokool said, would "lay the foundation for transparency, accountability and sustainable growth across the coastal region".

"The South Coast remains one of KwaZulu-Natal's most valuable tourism and investment corridors.

"This coastline holds immense potential to generate employment, attract visitors and restore dignity to communities that have borne the brunt of economic stagnation and natural disasters," she said.

Gokool commended both Macpherson and Meyer for what she described as "decisive and collaborative leadership that puts the public interest first".

"The DA applauds Minister Macpherson for his commitment to ensuring that public assets are used for the public good, and MEC Meyer for his swift response to the legitimate concerns raised by the business community in Ugu South," she said.

Meanwhile, the Ray Nkonyeni Municipality has criticised Macpherson's decision, saying the minister failed to consult the council before transferring the properties. Gokool, however, said the transfer had nothing to do with politics and everything to do with reviving livelihoods and restoring business confidence. "This is about



Msunduzi hosts G20 district development engagement

Deputy Minister in the Presidency Kenny Morolong, together with Deputy Minister Prince Zolile Burns-Ncamashe, led the G20 Outreach Programme and District Development Model (DDM) stakeholder engagement held at the Msunduzi Athletic Stadium in Pietermaritzburg yesterday. The session formed part of an ongoing national initiative aimed at raising public awareness about South Africa's G20 presidency and strengthening co-ordination across the three spheres of government through the DDM. South Africa joined the G20 in 1999, standing alongside the world's largest economies to promote inclusive and sustainable growth. Msunduzi Municipality, as a key partner, hosted and supported the engagement in collaboration with the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS). Pictured (from left) are uMgungundlovu District Mayor Mzi Zuma, Deputy Minister in the Presidency Kenny Morolong and Deputy Minister Prince Zolile Burns-Ncamashe. **PHOTO: MOEKETSI MAMANE**

creating opportunities for the youth of Ugu South, where unemployment stands at a staggering 37%. It's also about unlocking the 16.9% contribution tourism makes to our district economy and using

it as a driver of inclusive growth," she said.

The DA, Gokool added, would support the provincial department in regularising leases, promoting responsible investment and ensuring equitable benefits for local

businesses. "This is a victory for collaboration, transparency and progress — and, most importantly, a victory for the people of the South Coast," she said.

• clive.ndou@witness.co.za

