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Minister steps in after visit to derelict Schauderville pool

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Public works and infrastructure minister Dean Macpherson has called on his Eastern Cape counterpart to relocate the derelict Schauderville swimming pool to a new site, citing the facility's vandalised and irreparable state.

The 66-year-old pool, located in the northern areas of Gqeberha, has long been out of commission. During an April site visit, Macpherson deemed the pool beyond repair.

The Eastern Cape public works department owns the property, while open land opposite the Moore Dyke sports precinct has been identified as a suitable alternative site.

Macpherson's spokesperson, James de Villiers, said the minister and councillors visited the pool where he saw firsthand the vandalised and

overgrown state of the facility.

"During the visit, the councillors showed the minister a location where they hoped the pool could be rebuilt to benefit the entire community.

"Initially, it was believed the site belonged to the national department.

"It has since been confirmed that the provincial department owns the property.

He said Macpherson had written to MEC Siphokazi Lusithi requesting that the relocation of the pool be considered.

"The decision now lies with the MEC, but the minister is hopeful a solution will be found in the best interests of the community."

Lusithi did not respond to a request for comment.

DA northern areas constituency head Yusuf Cassim formally requested the relocation in a letter to Macpherson's

office. The letter referenced ward 11 councillor Graham Gelderbloem's April 2024 inquiry regarding a vacant parcel of land believed to have been transferred to a private developer.

"Gelderbloem subsequently contacted the department of public works to verify the accuracy of this information and to inquire about the proposed use of the vacant land," the letter, dated April 16, states.

"To date, he has been unsuccessful in his attempts to obtain information about the developer or the intended purpose of the site.

"Further to this, it has been proposed that the Schauderville swimming pool be relocated and constructed on ERF 4244.

"This site offers a safer and more accessible location, ensuring the safety of both the infrastructure and the

broader community."

Cassim requested clarity on the transfer, including its terms, intended use, and any associated timelines, while urging that a portion of the land be set aside for a public swimming facility.

Cassim welcomed the minister's response.

"There is an urgent need to relocate the long-abandoned pool, which has become a hotspot for criminal activity, illegal dumping, and gang violence," he said.

"The current site, stripped of infrastructure and left derelict since the Covid-19 lockdown, poses a direct threat to residents, particularly children.

"We identified the open land across from the Moore Dyke sports precinct as a viable alternative that offers improved access and reduced safety risks."