



public works

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MEDIA STATEMENT

MINISTER NXESI TARGETS INVESTMENT WORTH R20 BILLION BY 2020 ON STATE'S COASTAL PROPERTIES

Public Works Minister TW Nxesi, MP, has addressed delegates on the first day of a two day Operation Phakisa: Oceans Economy conference, aimed at attracting investment to unlock further economic opportunities in coastal areas.

In his address, Minister Nxesi said the department has set targets to attract investments worth R12 billion by 2019 and R20 billion by the year 2020 through state's harbour and coastal properties and to create over 1000 stable jobs directly linked to approved projects in the same timeframe. He said this will lead to the creation of over 2000 work opportunities through secondary activities linked to identified projects.

The conference attended by coastal municipalities in the Eastern Cape, potential investors and the provincial government, forms part of implementing the New Letting Out Framework, developed by the DPW and National Treasury for state owned small harbours and coastal properties. The New Letting Framework offers a more progressive method of collecting revenue and further addresses the empowerment of local SMME's, cooperatives, women, youth and persons with disabilities. The framework addresses the standardisation of the letting out process, the renegotiation and regularisation of all existing leases, issuing long term leases appropriate for different types of businesses and empowerment of black owned and local businesses through radical economic transformation measures and set-asides.

The Minister said the conference has brought the department one step closer to achieving national goals and a step closer to building a profitable relationship

between the private sector and Government through the development of state coastal property. 'It is through engagements like these that we will jointly improve the economic condition of small rural coastal towns, upgrade our metropolitan coastal cities and ultimately create viable economic zones along the country's coastline', said the Minister.

He said the development of Port Edward in Kwa-Zulu Natal, Port St Johns in the Eastern Cape and Port Nolloth in the Northern Cape will assist in the formalisation of marine activities – including, fishing, mining and aquaculture farming in small and rural areas.

'We wish to assure all participants of this process that we are committed to playing the lead role in coordinating the interaction between departments, provinces, municipalities and interested investors. We also commit to avail State-owned coastal property under our custodianship for development and ultimate contribution towards the improvement of the affected areas' socio-economic conditions, and provide sources of revenue for the municipalities, as well as individual community members', said Minister Nxesi

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