

● All relevant documents submitted, Buffalo City already cleared to receive equitable share

Bay awaits decision on release of Treasury funding

The Herald **air your views** **herald letters @arena.africa**

Nomazima Nkosi
NkosiN@theherald.co.za

The Nelson Mandela Bay municipality will have to wait a little longer to see if the National Treasury will release its equitable share allocation. This comes after Eastern Cape premier Oscar Mabuyane announced yesterday that the province's other metro, Buffalo City, had been given the green light by the National Treasury to access its R1.29bn equitable share allocation. Earlier this month, the Treasury announced that it would be withholding grants for 69 municipalities across the country, including Nelson Mandela

Bay, Buffalo City, Makana, Port St Johns, Sundays River Valley and Inxuba Yethemba, for their failures in dealing with persistent unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure (UIFWE). The Bay metro has the highest case of UIFWE in the country, exceeding R28bn. The city's equitable share allocation for the 2026/2027 financial year is R1.7bn. However, it is unclear what the first tranche will be. Yesterday, Mabuyane convened a special local government accountability day session with municipalities affected by the funding freeze at the East London Industrial

Development Zone (ELIDZ). He said the session was to develop a coherent approach by the affected municipalities in the province to secure the withheld equitable transfers. "I must indicate that the decision by the National Treasury is taken very seriously by the provincial government, as to us, this development has the potential to place additional strain on already constrained municipal finances. "It may in the long run impact the delivery of essential services to our communities if urgent corrective measures are not undertaken by the collective leadership of the province. As the provincial government,

Nelson Mandela Bay metro has the highest case of unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure (UIFWE) in the country, exceeding R28bn

we cannot allow a situation where our people bear the consequences of governance and compliance shortcomings through disruptions in basic service delivery," he said.

The equitable share helps municipalities fund basic services for poor households and support administrative costs. The Treasury said it withheld the funds after the municipalities repeatedly failed to comply with the Municipal Finance Management Act despite receiving guidance, support and multiple warnings. The municipalities were given written notice, urged to improve their financial management and afforded an opportunity to explain why their funds should not be withheld before the decision was made. Speaking after the session, co-operative governance and traditional affairs MEC Zolile Williams said the Bay provided proof that it had submitted all relevant documents required by the Treasury. "I've got copies of the information NMB provided and clearly they handled things on their side and they proved they've submitted. "Clearly they will be handled. "BCM and Port St Johns submitted and National Treasury has accepted their documents and soon their status may be changed. "National Treasury will still look at what Nelson Mandela Bay has submitted. "Municipalities have until [the end of] July for Treasury to



Nelson Mandela Bay mayor Babalwa Lobishe has welcomed the premier's intervention, saying it is intended to protect residents from the consequences of governance failures. Picture: EUGENE COETZEE

review their submissions," Williams said. Speaking on the sidelines of the meeting, Bay mayor Babalwa Lobishe welcomed Mabuyane's intervention, saying it was intended to protect residents from the consequences of governance failures. "The intervention he has been trying to make is making sure that our citizens do not suffer. "As Nelson Mandela Bay, we submitted both in December and again on June 26 to Treasury our responses relating to how we are going to lessen the UIFWE. "We have also taken to council 10 issues that would assist in the management and controls of dealing with UIFWE. So, we are of the view that with all these actions there are going to be tangible outcomes." — *Additional reporting Daily Dispatch*

visit us on facebook

🏍️ bikers on a mission



Wings Motorbike Club members with the goods they have collected so far for Mandela Day, in aid of Livingstone Hospital's oncology department. They are appealing to the public for more donations, which they will drop off on July 24. Picture: FREDLIN ADRIAN

Graft case against city boss postponed for final arguments

Msindisi Fengu

The corruption case against suspended Nelson Mandela Bay city manager Noxolo Nqwazi was postponed yesterday. Nqwazi appeared with her co-accused, former housing director Mvuleni Mapu, in the Gqeberha regional court. The case was postponed to September 7 and 8 for final arguments. Nqwazi and Mapu, who have both pleaded not guilty to fraud and other charges, remain out on bail. The charges against Nqwazi arise from her tenure as acting city manager in 2020. Central to the state's case is a decision by Nqwazi in April that year, as acting city manager and accounting officer, to bypass normal tender procedures and appoint Welkom-based HT Pelatona Projects to build 2,000 permanent toilets during the hard lockdown. Municipal officials had identified an urgent need for permanent toilets in Motherwell NU30 due to the relocation of households from flood-prone areas. The state alleges that Nqwazi not only failed to seek quotations, but also allegedly sidelined the city's then chief financial officer, Selwyn Thys, and the treasury unit. Instead, she and human settlements boss Mapu allegedly signed off on a deviation request the same day it was drafted, before instructing a supply chain official to issue an immediate appointment letter to HT Pelatona. The state alleges the deviation, which involved an amount of R24.6m, was approved in a single day while a separate deviation memo, involving R1.6m — submitted a week earlier — went through proper channels over almost two weeks.

visit us on facebook

Bay invests R5.6m to improve beachfront facilities

Msindisi Fengu
fengum@theherald.co.za

The Nelson Mandela Bay municipality has set aside R5.6m to maintain and upgrade beaches this financial year. Yesterday, the metro said this was part of its efforts to maintain its world-renowned status for its beaches. The city boasts four Blue Flag beaches. Mayor Babalwa Lobishe said the metro had experienced a steady increase in domestic and international tourists following the Covid-19 pandemic. "The vandalism that occurred during the lockdown caused significant damage to our beach infrastructure.

'The vandalism that occurred during the lockdown caused significant damage to our beach infrastructure'

"We are now working to restore our beaches to the high standard that has always been enjoyed by both residents and visitors," Lobishe said. She said the city took great pride in the Blue Flag beaches. Through the Integrated Development Plan, Lobishe said, the city would continue to invest in this important tourism and community asset with the

aim of seeing all the beaches acquiring the same status. Projects to be undertaken included: ● R2m to fence Maitlands Beach to improve access control and safety within the precinct; ● R1.5m to upgrade the balustrade in the Wells Estate beachfront precinct; ● R1.5m to repair and upgrade ablation facilities at Sardinia Bay Beach, which was extensively vandalised over the past two years; ● R500,000 to restore fencing and braai facilities at Brighton Beach; and ● R500,000 to upgrade the Kings Beach kiosk, which will include improvements to the infrastructure and replacement

of the roof. Additional work will include tree felling, grass cutting, general park maintenance, cleaning and improvements to public lighting. Pavement maintenance will also be undertaken at Sardinia Bay. The beachfront has become a crime hotspot in recent years, with incidents of violent robberies, muggings and theft causing concern. Recently, DA MP Baxolile Nodada and his friend were attacked on Gqeberha's beachfront. In June, the municipality unveiled tourism safety officers as part of its coastal tourism policing initiative. The initiative is a partnership between

The Herald **air your views** **herald letters @arena.africa**

the Tourism Business Council of SA, Mandela Bay Development Agency and the municipality. Lobishe said more work and additional funding would be invested in the next financial year to continue upgrades and maintenance at other beaches, including Wells Estate

and Brighton Beach, as part of improving the city's beachfronts for the benefit of residents and visitors. Metro spokesperson Sithembiso Soyaya said the city had over the years experienced steady growth in the number of visitors to its coastline. This had been attributed to the hard work and commitment of the municipality's beaches and resorts office in maintaining high standards across its beach facilities. Soyaya said the city had recently launched a Beach Safety Programme, which trained a number of young people as peace officers to patrol and proactively help prevent crime in the Humewood and Summerstrand beachfront areas.



Suspended Nelson Mandela Bay city manager Noxolo Nqwazi and her co-accused have both pleaded not guilty

nelson mandela bay MUNICIPALITY

TENDER EXTENSION

EXTENSION OF TENDER CLOSING DATE

Please note that the closing date for the following tender (Ref. 24), advertised in The Herald on 6 May 2026, has been extended as follows:

Tenders must reach the Municipality by not later than 11:00.

Ref. 32 - 15 July 2026

Under the hand of the Acting City Manager, Adv Lonwabo Ngogo

"TOGETHER WE CAN ADOPT A WATER-SAVING LIFESTYLE"

Plans to upgrade Matatiele landing strip to small airport

Sikho Ntshobane

Residents of Matatiele and surrounding communities could soon be spared lengthy trips to Mthatha or Durban to catch flights if plans to upgrade the town's landing strip into a small airport come to fruition. Alfred Nzo District Municipality mayor Tsileng Sobuthongo announced the proposal while delivering her state of the district address in Matatiele last week, saying the project formed part of broader plans to improve infrastructure and stimulate economic growth. She also unveiled plans for an aviation and drone technology training centre and a renewable manufacturing centre focused on lithium battery production in Ntabankulu. Sobuthongo said the municipality had forged partnerships with several Chinese institutions to support the district's development agenda. "Through this partnership, we will also be sending students to China to further their studies, do internships and advanced workplace experience in their respective specialities," she said. Matatiele's municipal

'An operational airport in Matatiele will attract more investors, grow the economy and create much-needed jobs'

aerodrome has a single 1.3km tarred runway and is used mainly by private light aircraft, charter flights and occasional lodge feeder operations. Plans for the upgraded facility include a 1,200m runway able to accommodate light to medium aircraft, including turboprops and small jets, a passenger terminal, parking facilities, emergency response services and a fuelling station. Municipal spokesperson Luncedo Walaza had not responded to questions by the time of publication. Matatiele Business Chamber president Zolile Mosweu welcomed the proposal, describing it as a potential catalyst for economic growth. "This is a bold and visionary step that we believe can be a game-changer for our local economy," he said. "An operational airport in Matatiele will attract more investors, grow the economy and create much-needed jobs for our youth and community. "Currently, businesses and investors are forced to rely on Durban for multiple flight connections, while Mthatha remains too expensive and inaccessible for many." — *Daily Dispatch*