

# PEDU FACILITATION COMMITTEE

Chairperson: N C Faku

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**ATTENTION: PROF. JAKES GERWEL**

Dear Sir

## USE OF NAME – NELSON MANDELA METROPOLE

Our letter of 23 June 2000 and the subsequent conversation between Prof. Gerwel and Councillor Faku refer.

We understand your informal advices that Mr Mandela has graciously consented to the use of the name Nelson Mandela Metropole for the Pedu Metro area. The formal process requires the MEC to include this name in a notice in terms of Section 12 of the Municipal Structures Act to be promulgated by no later than 31 August 2000. The MEC will have to provide a draft notice to affected parties approximately 14 days prior to the promulgation.

It will accordingly be necessary to obtain a formal written response as soon as possible, to inform the above process.

- The new name should be easily recognised at local, national and international level and not create confusion amongst those interacting with the City.
- Consideration should be given to the history of the area.
- Name should be a unifier across all barriers.
- Needs of the local community should be acknowledged.

After due consideration and distilling its choice from some twenty proposed names, the PFC has resolved to recommend to the MEC that the new municipality be named "Nelson Mandela Metropole".

In motivation, the PFC was of the view that Dr Mandela is a revered and respected statesperson and it is fitting that he be permanently acknowledged and honoured in the province of his birth.

The new metro will be the only category A municipality in the Eastern Cape Province, and deserves to be given a good profiling name.

Given the significant role played by the activists from the Eastern Cape and from the metro area in particular in achieving a democratic South Africa, it is fitting that the principal city of the province should be named after the country's first democratically elected president.

Dr Mandela is a son of this Province in an area primarily populated by people of his background, but is a figure universally accepted and looked up to. The name will accordingly constitute a unifying factor for the various communities in the metro, and across party-political lines.

Dr Mandela is well known nationally and internationally and his name is instantly recognisable, minimising the need to remarket an unknown name.

The PFC recognise that by assuming his name the metro council will have to strive to maintain the high standards set by Dr Mandela. This is considered to be an incentive to serve as a commitment to the developmental objectives of the area.

I have been given a mandate by the PFC to approach you with a view to requesting Dr Mandela to very seriously consider granting his permission for according our new municipality this honour. I am aware that he grants this permission sparingly, but do suggest that these are special circumstances.

Finally, I have heard that another city may be considering a similar use of Dr Mandela's name. The PFC does not wish to be the cause of disagreement over this issue but does feel that its motivations should prevail.

I do look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible. The City and many people of this area are anxiously awaiting for your affirmative response.

Yours faithfully



N. C. FAKU  
CHAIRPERSON  
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