

## **NMBM ISSUES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE**

The Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the development of an International Convention Centre (ICC).

"The ICC has been investigated by the NMBM, and we have taken a decision to implement the project as a priority because of its synergies with other developments and its inherent tourism potential. The funding required to construct and commission the ICC is expected to cost about R 800 million," said Executive Mayor of Nelson Mandela Bay Nondumiso Maphazi.

The NMBM has tasked one of its entities, the Mandela Bay Development Agency (MBDA), to manage the project on its behalf, noting that the ICC fitted well with the mandate of the MBDA, which is inter alia to promote Nelson Mandela Bay as a hub for property investment in retail, residential, office, tourism, leisure, and entertainment and as a strong entry point for the rest of the province and the country.

"In order to continue to develop our status as a growing first-class African city, new products need to be developed to ensure that Nelson Mandela Bay continues to grow as an exciting, hospitable and world-class commercial city. In line with this approach, government and the private sector recognized the role played by property investment in retail, residential, office, tourism, leisure and entertainment as an investment and economic catalytic stimulus," said Mayor Maphazi.

Research shows that the International Convention Centre and urban precinct will attract more tourism, which in turn will generate jobs, stimulate investment and create growth. The facility will contribute to further establish Nelson Mandela Bay as a destination by developing and enhancing the meetings, incentives, conferences and events (MICE) market that are attracted to the region and add depth and credence to our brand promise as an exciting world-class African city.

The development of an ICC will create both temporary and permanent employment in Nelson Mandela Bay. With regards to the RFP, applicants have been asked to supply information on the creation of employment and the enhancement of other tourism revenues. Applicants must also indicate strategies adopted to ensure that the local communities are able to participate in and benefit from the ICC development. The strategies adopted in the promotion of small and medium business opportunities must also be outlined by applicants.

Applicants would also need to complete an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that details the impact of the development of an ICC on surrounding land use; as well as its impact areas and buildings of national and historic importance on or near the site and the respective strategies for their use, protection and potential. The impact of the proposed ICC on the environment must also be detailed in the submission.

The ICC development, offering a range of amenities in respect of office, retail, tourism, leisure and entertainment activities, shall be situated on the property currently occupied by the Eastern Province Rugby Union Stadium (EPRU) Stadium, in Nelson Mandela Bay.

The MBDA has identified three potential sources of funding for the development of the ICC. The sale or lease of the land on which it will be developed being one, the raising of a tourism development levy for a predestined period being another, and the raising of a casino "exclusivity fee" through the Gambling Board being the third option.

The recent Expressions of Interest received from potential developers helped the MBDA to gauge the level of interest in certain parcels of land and thereby determine the nature of developments that are envisaged, together with the price or rental that could reasonably be paid for the land.

The ICC development shall include space for offices, and retail, tourism, leisure and entertainment activities.

The MBDA will manage the implementation of the project and ensure a competent management team is in place to manage the complex once completed.

The Request for Proposals for the development of the ICC was advertised in local and national newspapers this week and interested parties have until 13 January 2009 to respond. All parties submitting RFPs are required to attend a briefing session on Friday, 14 November 2008 at 10:00 at the MBDA's offices, 7th floor, Kwantu Towers, Port Elizabeth, Nelson Mandela Bay.

The NMBM expects both national and international developers to submit proposals. Prospective bidders seeking more information may contact either Pierre Voges on +27 83 309 0351 or Ashwin Daya on +27 83 291 0567.

visit [www.mbda.co.za](http://www.mbda.co.za) for more information on the ICC or [www.nmbt.co.za](http://www.nmbt.co.za) for more information on Nelson Mandela Bay.