



to be the best together

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Emile van der Merwe Town Planning Consultants
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Dear Sir

RESORT DEVELOPMENT: PORTION 5 OF FARM 296; BITOU MUNICIPALITY

Your application submitted to the Bitou Municipality and our meeting in respect of the proposed development has reference.

The application entails an amendment of condition of approval for an amendment of the approved Site Development Plan to replace the current resort chalets (10) with 8 new resort units with associated infrastructure as per the Site Development Plan prepared by Malherbe Rust Architects. The property is situated in Keurboomstrand that falls under the jurisdiction of the Bitou Municipality.

BITOU MUNICIPAL INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2017/2022)

The Bitou Municipality in terms of their IDP is committed in growing economy and to create favourable conditions for employment within an enabling environment that is conducive to sustainable development. The Municipality with reference to the above recognises the important role that tourism play as catalyst towards local economic development and the creation of employment opportunities.

The importance of tourism as a stimulus for job creation is of key priority for the Municipality given the fact that approximately 63.6 percent of households in Bitou fall within the low income bracket, of which 17.7 percent have no income. A sustained increase in economic growth within the Bitou municipal area is needed if the 2030 NDP income target of R110 000 per person, per annum is to be achieved.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Economic growth is essential to support the municipal development agenda, reduce unemployment, poverty and inequality. In some circles, economic development is perceived as an added burden on local government the contrary is true with Bitou Municipality. Economic development is seen as pivotal enabler for poverty eradication, job creation and stimulating growth and development.

Section 152 (c) of the constitution is very clear on this subject as such Bitou Municipality is committed in stimulating economic development.

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The municipal Local Economic Development Strategy recognises and actively supports and promotes initiatives in support of tourism infrastructure. The proposal envisaged on Portion 5 of Farm 296 is in line and conducive to the strategic objectives of the National Development Plan and Provincial Strategic Action Plan to which our IDP is aligned. The proposal will give practical effect to the implementation of the Municipal local economic development agenda by means of providing resort orientated facilities in support of the tourism industry.

The development proposal that supports the tourism industry with other downstream economic linkages will have a definite positive impact on the social-economic development of the area since it will enable job creation with multiplier economic benefits.

The official unemployment rate in Bitou Municipality is 30.1 percent according to Census data, the highest of the seven local municipalities in Eden district. The unemployment rate increased by 3.8 percent from 2001 to 2011. The percentage increase is also the highest in the district.

TOURISM

The proposed development on the property can assist to alleviate the above since tourism and related sectors such as catering and accommodation remain central to the economic well-being of Plettenberg Bay. Our department is committed to create an enabling environment that in support of such developments that can modernise the tourism sector.

The LED Strategy is an approach towards economic development that allows and encourages local people to work together to achieve sustainable economic growth and development, thereby bringing economic benefits and improved quality of life to all residents in a local municipal area. It further focuses on enhancing the local business environment in order to increase sustainable growth and development in the area. It ensures that the growth is inclusive of all communities. The resort development can contribute to maximise the economic potential of area enhance the resilience of macro-economic growth through increased local economic growth, employment creation and development initiatives within the context of sustainable development.

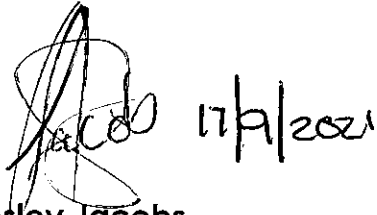
From the information provided it is stated that the project will create the following employment opportunities:

- 20 temporary jobs resulting from the installation of the civil services infrastructure
- 40 temporary jobs as a result from the construction process (estimated 14 months)
- 20 permanent jobs during the operation phase of the resort

Job creation and sustainable employment is of critical importance for the well-being of our communities. The development proposal therefore is welcomed and supported by the department as it will have a positive impact on the social economic of the area.

The proposal is in line and will give execution to the strategic objectives of the Municipality as put forward in the IDP and Local Economic Strategy.

Yours in development

Handwritten signature of Lesley Jacobs and the date 17/9/2021.

Lesley Jacobs

**Manager: Economic Development and Tourism
Bitou Municipality**