



The Game changer of South Coast development

10 Connor Street  
P.O. Box 5  
Port Shepstone, 4240  
Telephone: 039 688 2000  
Fax: 039 682 0327  
Email: services@rnm.gov.za

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## MEDIA STATEMENT

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### RNM RETAINS BLUE FLAG STATUS FOR ITS BEACHES

**Ray Nkonyeni Municipality Mayor welcomes the news by the Blue Flag programme in South Africa that the municipality has been able to retain Blue Flag status for its beaches.**

The news augers well for the people and visitors to the municipality, because the Blue Flag symbol is the guarantee that the beach is safe and environmentally sound.

The municipality was one of the first municipalities awarded this status, and have maintained it for various beaches every year since the International Awards started by Federation Environmental Education(FEE), based in Europe. The iconic Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognized voluntary eco-labels awarded to beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators. Unlike other municipalities who only become part of the programme only during season, RNM beaches maintain their Blue Flag status for 365 days.

**"In order to qualify for the Blue Flag, a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety, and accessibility criteria must be met and maintained. For us achieving this, demonstrate our commitment in promoting local, domestic and international tourism and ensuring that South Coast remains the Tourist Destination of Choice", said the Mayor of RNM, Cllr Sikhumbuzo Mqadi expressing his elation towards the achievement.**

Whilst all the 21 Bathing RNM beaches are open and safe for recreational activities, the beaches that retained the Blue Flag Status are **Marina, Trafalgar, Ramsgate, Southport, Umzumbe, and Hibberdene** whilst **St. Michaels** was given a status of Blue Flag Pilot Beach.

**"As Ray Nkonyeni Municipality, we will continue working with appropriate stakeholders to ensure that we retain this prestigious status as a reflection of our commitment to quality service and sound beach management", concluded Mayor Mqadi. END**

For more information contact:

**Simon M April**

**Senior Manager: Mayoralty and Communications**

**+27 39 688 2056**

**+27 72 057 5387**

**[Simon.April@rnm.gov.za](mailto:Simon.April@rnm.gov.za)**