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German delegation visits EC to explore potential partnerships



Group photo of the German delegation with departmental project coordinator Mr Gugulethu Adam



HOD Sibongile Mpofu and German Federal State of Lower Saxony acting HOD of Sport, Philipp Wedelich exchanging gifts

The German Federal State of Lower Saxony led by State Police President, Axel Brockmann and acting HOD of Sport, Philipp Wedelich visited the Eastern Cape Government to service the interrelations twinning agreement between the two provinces on 26 February to 1 March 2023.

Initially, the visit was to be led by Mr. Boris Pistorius, the former Minister of Interior and Sport in Lower Saxony who has since been elevated to the position of a Minister for Defence in Germany, and has succeeded by Ms. Daniela Berhens as the new Minister of Interior and Sport who will visit the province during November 2023.

The visit by the delegation led by Mr. Axel Brockman was to advance and prepare for that official visit by the new Minister for her to get first-

hand information and witness some of the projects that have been in place for the past 28 years. The new board from LandesSportBund also formed part of the delegation being led by the President – Mr. Andre' Kwiatkowski.

To further cement the partnership between the two governments, a new declaration will be signed towards the end of the year, 2023 as the Joint Declaration of Intent signed by the provincial government and that of the German Federal State of Lower Saxony on 20 October 2015 came to an end in 2021.

The old declaration largely focused on the International Voluntary Service Sports Exchange Programmes between the Landessportbund Niedersachsen and the Department of Sport, Recreation Arts and Culture, wherein teams,

coaches and team officials exchange different techniques and opinions on how to improve competing with each other.

The delegation came to explore more opportunities where the provinces can venture when they sign the new declaration, that will encompass the intercity relations between the Nelson Mandela Metro Municipality and the City of Braunschweig. The new opportunities include economic development, exchange between tertiary institutions and education.

The delegation also visited the academy of sport in Gqeberha to enhance the academy programmes and held a meeting with the DSRAC Head of Department, Ms Sibongile Mpofu, where they discussed current and future projects and how to improve on their implementation.