

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PARRA & KPAA Serve Official Interdict to Halt Ndlambe Name Change Process

Port Alfred, Eastern Cape - 4 December 2025

The Port Alfred Ratepayers' & Residents' Association (PARRA) and Keep Port Alfred & Alexandria (KPAA) hereby confirm that an official interdict application has been formally served on the following parties:

- **Minister of Arts and Culture**
- **Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts & Culture, Eastern Cape**
- **Ndlambe Local Municipality**
- **South African Geographical Names Council (SAGNC)**
- **Eastern Cape Provincial Geographical Names Committee (ECPGNC)**

This legal action directly concerns the **name change process currently underway** for several geographical names within the Ndlambe Local Municipality, including Port Alfred, Alexandria, and the Kowie River. The application challenges the **lawfulness, fairness, and procedural integrity** of the process undertaken to date.

Purpose of the Interdict

PARRA and KPAA have taken this step to **halt the continuation of the name change process** until a lawful, transparent, and procedurally fair public participation process has been undertaken.

According to the Founding Affidavit filed with the High Court of South Africa (Eastern Cape Division, Makhanda), the organisations argue that the process has been “**unlawful, unconstitutional, irrational, and procedurally unfair**”

The interdict seeks the Court's intervention to ensure adherence to:

- **Section 33 of the Constitution**, which guarantees the right to lawful and procedurally fair administrative action.
 - The **Promotion of Administrative Justice Act (PAJA)** and its Regulations, which require proper notice, sufficient information, and meaningful engagement.
 - The **South African Geographical Names Council Act**, the **Handbook on Geographical Names**, and the **ECPGNC's own published Policy**, all of which set out mandatory consultation requirements.
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Summary of Declaratory Relief Sought (Point 113–121)

In the application, PARRA requests the Court to declare that:

- The public participation conducted so far **does not constitute meaningful consultation** and therefore **fails to meet constitutional and statutory requirements**.
- The ECPGNC has **failed to provide required information**, including motivations for proposed name changes, preventing stakeholders from participating meaningfully.
- The ECPGNC has **failed to provide proper notice of meetings**, did not comply with prescribed time periods, and did not follow the mandatory procedures set out in PAJA and its own policy frameworks.
- As a result, the process is **fundamentally flawed**, and the community is entitled to an order requiring that the entire participation process be **lawfully restarted** before any recommendation can be made to the SAGNC or the Minister.

The application further argues that these failures “**undermine the name change process in a manner which would render them impossible to rectify at a later stage**”

Community Survey Findings Support Pause of Process

PARRA and KPAA also submitted independently gathered community sentiment data demonstrating overwhelming public concern and opposition:

- **60.2%** oppose changing the name of the town, compared with **31.3%** who support it.
- Only **25.6%** of residents understand the meaning of the new proposed names.
- **84.4%** rate the current town name positively, and **83.1%** feel a strong sense of belonging to it.
- **70.1%** believe a name change would negatively affect **jobs and tourism**.

- **66.6%** regard the process as a **waste of public funds**.

These findings show that the vast majority of residents are not only concerned about the impact but also **feel excluded from a fair and transparent process**.

Statement from PARRA & KPAA

“This interdict is not about politics—it is about due process. Our community has the constitutional right to be properly consulted. We are asking the Court to ensure that any decisions made about our town follow the law and respect the voices of the residents who call Port Alfred and Alexandria home.”

Next Steps

With the interdict served, PARRA and KPAA await the respondents' formal replies through the High Court process. Additional communication will follow as the matter progresses.

About PARRA & KPAA

PARRA (Port Alfred Ratepayers' & Residents' Association) and **KPAA (Keep Port Alfred & Alexandria)** are community-led organisations committed to transparency, accountability, and the protection of local heritage and democratic participation within the Ndlambe Municipality.

For More information: Contact Jennifer Schoultz | jennifer@digitaldandelions.co.za | 079 527 6921

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