

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE HONORABLE MAYOR CLLR SOBANE MNUKWA DURING THE SMALL TOWN REVIATILIZATION PROGRAMME ON THE 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021.**

Honourable Premier

Madam Speaker

Executive Committee Members

Chief Whip and Whippery

Councillors

Traditional Leaders

Provincial Management and Officials

Municipal Manager and Senior Management

Media Houses

Government Officials

Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me greet you all in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Today we're gathered again, to witness, yet another milestone that has been achieved by the government of the day.

A government that breaks towers to see the realisation, of the freedom charter being lived by the most destitute families in our midst.

A government that strives to ensure that our livelihoods continue with ease of access to economic opportunities.

**Ladies and Gentlemen;** allow me to welcome you all to one of the fastest rural developing towns in the Eastern Cape Province, EmaXesibeni.

**Fellow Councillors and Residents;** the main objective of this project is to strategically develop small towns to be catalysts for Regional Economic Development.

This is to further foster spatial integration, improved access to services, as well as to promote social and economic inclusion for local residents in the area.

It is pleasing to note that EmaXesibeni was identified as one of the areas in the Eastern Cape Province to benefit from this historic programme. Various strategic government departments merged on this developmental concept and thus implemented it with the required haste (speed).

**Honourable Premier;** upon the planning stages, this programme was segmented into 4 projects with various phases to completion.

These include the Upgrading of EmaXesibeni Cemetery, Upgrading of Street Lights, Upgrading of Town Streets (Phase 1 and Phase 2) and the EmaXesibeni Transport Hub. It's worth noting that two of these projects have been completed.

This development has been widely welcomed by the residents of Umzimvubu. This area is coincidentally the capital of the Alfred Nzo District and should continue as an area for economic activities.

Without wasting any further time, allow me to welcome you to this historic initiative and trust that we will have a good handover programme.

I thank you.

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Delivered by:

Cllr Sobane Mnukwa