

## **POLITICAL BRIEFING DELIVERED BY THE HONOURABLE MAYOR SOBANE MNUKWA DURING THE PREMIERS PROJECT HANDOVER PROGRAMME HELD ON THE 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021 AT EMAXESIBENI.**

The main objective of the 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. EmaXesibeni has been identified as one of the areas in the Eastern Cape Province to benefit from the programme.

The programme has been 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.

### **1. Upgrading of EmaXesibeni Cemetery:**

This project employed 231 people and was supposed to take 8 months to complete. However due to COVID-19 related implications, a one (1) month extension period was granted and the overall completion period of the project was nine (9) months. It is also pleasing to note that two local SMMEs were appointed and the total amount of **R 11 771 165.79** was spent on this project. The construction began on the **03<sup>rd</sup> June 2020** and was subsequently completed on the **30<sup>th</sup> March 2021**.

The scope of works for the project was as follows:

- Construction of 700m of surfaced Access road with 650 square meters of external parking for busses and other cars
- Construction and paving of 900m of internal driveways
- Construction and paving of 600m of sidewalks
- Construction of Guardhouse and Ablution Block with Septic Tank.

## **2. Upgrading of Street Lights:**

This project employed 117 people and was supposed to take six months to complete. However due to COVID-19 related implications a further extension period of SIX (6) months was granted for the completion of the project. Two Local SMMEs were appointed and the overall expenditure of the project amounts to **R 6 409 270.02**. The construction began on the **1<sup>st</sup> February 2020** and it was subsequently completed on the **1<sup>st</sup> July 2021**. The scope of work for the project was as follows:

### **Project Scope of Work**

- Replaced 78 x 35W single wooden pole streetlight with 73W LED light fittings with steel pole.
- Laid 4335 meters of LV Armored cable 2 core 16mm<sup>2</sup> ECC underground cabling to feed the streetlights.
- Installed 3 x LV kiosk to energize the lights o feed the lights.

- Strung 140 meters of Airdac cable 10mm<sup>2</sup> Overhead cable to cross the bridge.
- Used 78 x 5A Circuit break (CBI) to switch on and off each light when it is faulty.
- Laid 723 meters of Conduit tubing 110mm.
- Maintained the existing electrical infrastructure to meet the OTP objectives and Eskom standards.

### **3. Upgrading of EmaXesibeni Streets – Phase 1**

The expenditure rate of first phase of this project is currently at an amount of R 649 108. The total amount budgeted for phase 1 is R 2 774 708.23. Three (3) local SMMEs have been appointed for the programme and it has since employed a number of 395 people. It should however be noted that the Contractor is on and off site due to cash flow problems.

The project is not progressing well. The Progress is two (2) months behind the programme that is adjusted for extension of time. The contractor has since submitted an action plan to accelerate progress. However, the actual pace of progress on site is not according to the Action Plan. Follow up engagements are yet to be finalised with the contractor and it has been noted that contractor is likely to be on penalties.

#### **4. Upgrading of EmaXesibeni Streets – Phase 2**

This tender project has been advertised and will close on the **11<sup>th</sup> November 2021**. The planned contract period is for a duration of 12 months. The following streets are to be upgraded under this phase:

- **Main Street:** From Boxer intersection to Shoprite 300m
- **Hospital Road:** From Alfred Nzo intersection to Hospital 500m
- **Nolangeni Street:** From Boxer intersection to Engen Garage 300m
- **Plantation Street:** From Boxer intersection to Alfred Nzo Community Radio 200m
- Upgrading of Boxer Intersection

#### **5. Construction of EmaXesibeni Transport Hub**

The construction of this project is currently on tender stage.