



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

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ATTENTION: Editors, News Editors & PR Wires

KZN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT ANNOUNCES R300 MILLION ROADS UPGRADE IN KWAKHOZA, NEAR ESHOWE

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Social Development, Mrs. Weziwe Thusi, today announced the beginning of the upgrade of district road D135 from gravel to blacktop in KwaKhoza, near Eshowe, within the Umlalazi Local Municipality in Uthungulu district, for a total investment of R306 million.

The 24.65 kilometre long road connects the KwaKhoza rural community to Gingindlovu, Matigulu, Eshowe town, as well as Empangeni and Richards Bay.

At least 250 direct jobs will be created, 103 emerging and established contractors will participate (CDIB grades 1 to 6) during the five-year construction project.

There will be 20 young people who will also get opportunities to skill up and ultimately receive NQF Level 3 in National Certificate Road Work Construction.

Other major projects within the municipality and district include 31.3 kilometres long main road P230 connecting Eshowe to Empangeni, which has been constructed for R310 million and is almost complete (1 kilometre to go). They also include main road P218/ P710, which is 47 kilometres long and is an investment of R546 million, from eNtumeni to eSundumbili. As well, district road D883 in Endulinde, which is a R208 million and stretches for 23 kilometres.

Thusi, standing in for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison MEC Mxolisi Kaunda, noted Inkosi Khoza's historical input, which indicated that the late and founding President of a democratic South Africa, Nelson Mandela, had promised the road will be upgraded.

"This road upgrade underpins the realisation of our beloved President Nelson Mandela's commitment to the people of KwaKhoza. It also demonstrates that ours is a caring government which delivers its commitments to the people. Specifically, this road is also part of the ANC led government's resolve to improve roads and transportation infrastructure across the province, but mainly in underdeveloped rural communities such as KwaKhoza. It supports the agricultural sector, and will improve travel and movement of local people as they go to the clinics, hospitals, pension payout service points, and assist children going to schools. Furthermore, it will improve access to nearby towns of EShowe, Mtunzini, Empangeni, Richards Bay, all the way to Durban, as well as key routes including R33, R66, R102, and N2," said Thusi.

Ends.

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