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## Media Advisory

## Monday, 22 April 2024

## MEC SIPHO HLOMUKA TO CONDUCT INSPECTION OF GUMATANE BRIDGE AND HAND OVER R200 MILLION ROAD REHABILITATION PROJECT TO IMPROVE THE TOWN OF HARDING UNDER UMUZIWABANTU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Sipho Hlomuka, will (Tuesday, 23 April 2024), conduct an inspection of the Gumatane Bridge and hand over a road rehabilitation project worth more than R200 million to revive the town of Harding in Umuziwabantu Local Municipality.

The inspection of the Gumatane River Bridge comes after there have been delays in its completion. MEC Hlomuka will visit this project and pronounce on intervention measures to ensure its speedy completion as its essential in connecting the community of uMzumbe and Harding in uMuziwabantu.

Homuka will also hand over the rehabilitation contract for Main Road P61. The contract value for the project is R200 million and this project is set to dramatically improve the region's connectivity and establish a new standard for road safety and accessibility.

The P61 is a vital connection that links several municipal roads in uMuziwabantu Local Municipality's Wards Three and Eight, under the uGu District Municipality. This critical artery ties into the National Road N2, running between Harding and Kokstad, creating a significant pathway for commerce, travel, and regional growth.

The importance of the P61 Road resonates throughout local communities, particularly in Mkhoba and Weza. Moreover, it will create 140 work opportunities dedicated to local youth, women, and people with disabilities, paving the way for a new wave of empowerment and inclusion.

DETAILS FOR THE TWO PROJECTS Gumatane Bridge Inspection Date: Tuesday, 23 April 2024 Time: 09h30 Venue: Gumatane River Bridge (uMzumbe Local Municipality)

Contractor Handover- P61 Date: Tuesday, 23 April 2024 Time: 12h00 Venue: P61 Harding (uMuziwabantu Local Municipality)

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