



TO : News Editors/All Media Houses

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For immediate release

Improvement of roads infrastructure creates employment opportunities for local communities and boost local contractors

Early in January 2024, the MEC for Community Safety, Roads, and Transport, Maqueen Letsoha-Mathae, announced the infrastructure projects that were committed by Premier Mxolisi Dukwana in his State of the Province Address to be attended by the Department.

Some of these road infrastructure projects included Schonkenville-Koppies, Tweespruit access road, refurbishment of the Riet River Bridge, upgrading of R30-Allandridge, and Phase 2 of Jim Fouche-Deneysville. The MEC further made a commitment to visit projects to be handed over to the communities.

In the last three weeks, the MEC has traversed the province to hand over the multimillion rand road infrastructure projects. The projects that have been handed to the community include R705—Koffiefontein/Jacobsdal, Tweespruit/Hobhouse, Qwa-Qwa primary roads, and R34—Odendalsrus—Wesselsbron and Hoopstad roads.

These infrastructure projects will create approximately 2,616 job opportunities over a maximum period of 30 months. The majority of community members to be employed are women, youth, and people with disabilities. These job opportunities will decisively intervene in addressing the socio-economic needs of many households.

The laborers for these projects will be drawn from community members where the project is located. The intention is for the project to change the livelihoods of community members where it is initiated. The MEC has been part of some social facilitation programs in which laborers are recruited in an open and democratic process through a draw.

The projects not only create job opportunities for local residents but also create opportunities for local SMMEs through subcontracting for various work aligned with road infrastructure. In the above-mentioned

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infrastructure projects handed over, about 134 subcontractors will benefit from being part of the project, and this will improve the competitive status and ability of subcontractors for future projects. The inclusion of subcontractors is part of the 30% inclusion of local businesses.

At the conclusion of these projects, 240,7 kilometers of roads would have been repaired, and this would improve economic activities between towns, provide easy access to service delivery points, and facilitate the easy movement of people from one area to another.

These infrastructure projects will go a long way toward reducing accidents that cause fatalities. We will continue to hand over additional roads infrastructure and are committed to delivering quality roads in the Free State, said MEC Maqueen Letsoha-Mathae.

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