



public works,
roads & transport

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MEC THOMO TURNS THE SOD ON MORE THAN R231 MILLION ROAD PROJECT LINKING EMBALENHLE AND SECUNDA

The Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport has commenced another major road infrastructure project following a sod-turning ceremony officiated by MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Mr Thulasizwe Thomo, for the rehabilitation and upgrading of Road P216/1 between Embalenhle and Secunda in the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality, Gert Sibande District.

The project, valued at more than R231 million, is part of the provincial government's ongoing commitment to improving road infrastructure, enhancing mobility and supporting economic development across Mpumalanga.

The sod-turning ceremony was attended by the Executive Mayor of Govan Mbeki Local Municipality, Councillor Nhlakanipho Zuma, Councillors, community stakeholders, as well as representatives of the local community.

Addressing the gathering, MEC Thomo emphasised that the commencement of the project represents more than the construction of a road, but an investment in the local economy and the future of communities that depend on safe and reliable transport infrastructure.

"This project is about more than roads. It is about connecting communities, supporting economic activity and creating opportunities for our people. We expect the contractor to ensure that local communities and SMMEs benefit meaningfully from this investment," said MEC Thomo.

The MEC highlighted the importance of creating opportunities for local businesses, SMMEs, youth and other community members throughout the implementation of the project. He called on the contractor to engage local stakeholders and maximise opportunities for local participation, in line with applicable government procurement and empowerment requirements.



MEC Thomo also issued a strong warning against extortion and the disruption of construction projects, stressing that such conduct will not be tolerated.

“We will not allow extortion to derail government projects. These projects are intended to benefit our communities, and nobody should use intimidation, threats or illegal demands to frustrate development. We will work with law enforcement and other stakeholders to ensure that the project proceeds without unlawful interference,” said Thomo.

The MEC further placed the contractor on notice that the project must be delivered within the agreed contractual timelines and to the required quality standards.

“We expect the contractor to work within the stipulated timelines. Our communities have waited long enough for improved infrastructure, and we cannot afford unnecessary delays. The contractor must deliver according to the programme, while ensuring that the work meets the required standards,” he said.

The Department said the project is expected to improve connectivity between Embalenhle and Secunda, enhance road safety and contribute to the broader socio-economic development of the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality and the Gert Sibande District.

The Department will continue to monitor the implementation of the project to ensure that it delivers value for money, creates meaningful opportunities for local communities and contributes to the provincial government’s infrastructure development agenda.

Ends

For more information please contact Mr Bongani Dhlamini on 079 293 6515

