

# Road works central to service delivery

AFTER inheriting 28 new villages from Amahlathi, Great-Kei and Ngqushwa municipalities, the Buffalo City Metro has committed to servicing its new communities, which have pleaded for delivery.

At the top of the metro's priorities for the villages is for the thousands of villagers to have decent roads and infrastructure.

BCM executive mayor Xola Pakati said an additional 261km had been assessed from the 28 villages and 20km already been attended to in April and May.

In the upcoming financial year (2017-18) the metro is set to continue with the implementation of the roads master plan "to assist with planning for future roads programmes, projects and also with finalisation of the procurement process for the pavement management system".

The metro prides itself with the R70.7-million Phase 2 of the Quenera-Beacon Bay link road, which is already under construction.

Phase 3 of the Mdantsane roads, which is valued at R372-million, and the R128-million Fleet Street projects will also continue.

"During March 2017, council approved a memorandum of agreement between BCM and the Eastern Cape department of roads and public works in order to address provincial roads within BCM.

"The department is exploring alternative resurfacing technology for gravel roads that will yield more stable gravel surface and longer lifespan," said Pakati during his state of the metro address last week.

The metro is also working with South African National Roads Agency Limited (Sanral) to rehabilitate the N2 route between Buffalo

River and Breidbach intersection and the N2 route between Alexander Road and Bhisho.

"The N2 from Breidbach to the entrance into King William's Town is currently being overlaid, with a new traffic circle having been constructed at the intersection of the N2 and Hargreaves Road. The section of Alexander Road from the outskirts of King William's Town to the intersection of Grey Street is currently in progress," said Pakati.

"The section of the N2 route from Grey Street to Cathcart street on Buffalo Road is currently being rehabilitated.

"It was the decision of Sanral to extend the rehabilitation of Buffalo Road, which is a provincial road as far as Everitt Close on the outskirts of King William's Town."

As part of the infrastructure programme, BCM has created 22 000 temporary jobs as part of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) by the end of May, with a salary bill of over R8.5-million.

Thousands of young people have been employed in major projects including:

- The upgrading of the Mdantsane gravel roads to surfaced standards cluster 2 where 827 jobs were created;
- 798 jobs were created from the upgrading of Mdantsane gravel roads surfaced standards cluster 3;
- The rehabilitation of Fleet Street created 962 jobs;
- 345 people benefited from the construction of concrete roads east of Gullsway;
- The electrification of Mdantsane Buffer strip saw 339 jobs created and;
- The King William's Town public transport facilities upgrade has created 316 jobs.