

ANC orders EC to create thousands of new jobs

Multibillion-rand projects the focus at ANC lekgotla

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THE ANC wants the Bhisho government to prioritise several multibillion-rand development projects this year, which will see thousands of jobs created once construction starts.

These include a R20-billion Mzimvubu multipurpose development, a R2-billion Buffalo City beachfront development, a R14-billion provincial government office precinct project and a R5-billion agro-processing project on the Wild Coast.

The Dispatch has seen a report that ANC provincial secretary Lulama Ngcukayitobi tabled at the re-

cent ANC lekgotla in which the party gives a detailed assessment of premier Phumulo Masualle’s performance as the provincial government’s leader.

In it, Ngcukayitobi highlights the need for the state to speed up construction of a R110-billion oil refinery project in Mthombo and the controversial R5.1-billion Eastern Cape broadband rollout.

Ngcukayitobi said: “The current risk is that various SOEs [state owned entities] including Transnet and Eskom have mobilised their resources to progress project development work in the Richards Bay area, which poses a risk for the Coega area, as state funding could be used to justify taking this project to where there is more project development.

“The Eastern Cape province seeks to activate an effective and impactful intervention to influence the advancement of the refinery project at Coega,” he added.

AIMING HIGH		
PROJECT	VALUE	JOBS
Project Mthombo Oil Refinery	R110 bn	27 000
Wild Coast SEZ Agriculture and Agroprocessing	R5 bn	1 000
Mzimvubu Dev Proj Water Infrastructure and Energy	R20 bn	2 000
EC Broadband Roll-out ICT Infrastructure	R5.15 bn	500
Buffalo City Beachfront Dev Tourism Infrastructure	R2 bn	700

The ANC announced yesterday that if things went according to plan, there would be a provincial cabinet shakeup which may affect the premier because of strained relations between his office and Calata House.

However, this could be delayed due to a pressing issue of national importance – the possibility of Pres-

ident Jacob Zuma resigning as head of the state.

Ngcukayitobi, in an interview with the Dispatch, said “whoever” delivers the state of the province address (Sopa) later this month would have to give full account of progress made in these projects, because they were not new. He singled out Mzimvubu and Mthombo, as well as a proposed new rail link between East London and Durban.

Masualle was busy yesterday consulting communities for his tabling of the Sopa next Friday.

But the event has been shelved indefinitely after Speaker Baleka Mbete’s announcement on Tuesday that President Zuma’s State of the Nation address (Sona) had been postponed indefinitely. Province’s tune their priorities to the Sona.

The premier, in the provincial address, would also have to give a detailed account of the Bhisho government’s plan to build new towns in areas such as Coffee Bay and

construct a new port in Port St Johns. These were some of the multimillion-rand development projects that Masualle mentioned when he delivered his Sopa last year.

At the time, Masualle said the national Department of Public Works and Transport had “started with a feasibility study that will lead to the construction of the Port St Johns fishing harbour”.

He also said “Transnet will commence with processes to establish a maritime training centre at the East London Port in the first quarter of 2017-18”.

Ngcukayitobi said: “Last year, the premier talked about the establishment of the new ports in line with the oceans economy.

“We expect the premier will be able to report back about these particular establishments in Port St Johns and other areas and the new towns that were going to be established in areas such as Coffee Bay.”