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IDT implementing a R260-million Free State military programme

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The Department of Defence is undertaking a multi-billion rand refurbishment programme of its facilities at several military bases across the country and the Independent Development Trust (IDT) is in the thick of things at the Tempe Military Base in Bloemfontein.

According to its Annual Performance Plans for the 2017/18 financial year, the department's infrastructure programme will focus on expanding and maintaining its infrastructure and this include the construction and refurbishment of military health facilities; military bases and units; and improvements to accommodation, kitchen and security facilities, over the medium term.

The IDT was appointed to implement two major refurbishment of facilities and civil services costing around R260-million at the Tempe base over a period of just over three years.

"The IDT is very proud to be involved in these projects and obtaining such a contract from the Department is testament to our ability to deliver on social infrastructure for the State, on time, within scope and quality," says Yvonne Mbane, IDT Interim CEO.

The scope of work include the demolition of some facilities, construction, painting, ceiling, flooring, plumbing and electrical work as well as paving and replacing an existing precast concrete fence, and refurbishing the sewer and water reticulation system.

The IDT is implementing the works at the 1 SA Infantry Battalion for about R145-million and for about R110-million at the 44 Parachute Regiment on a contract duration of about 40 months.

With a proven track record on delivering quality social infrastructure on time and within scope, the IDT is now extending its current service offering to other areas within the value chain of social infrastructure provision such as maintenance, facilities management, energy savings, etc.

This is after the organisation has successfully established an in-house built environment professional services function to improve service offering and strengthen revenue generation.

This new function is critical in improving the organisation's service offering to enable client departments to successfully deliver on their mandate in relation to provision of infrastructure such as this.

To date at least 230 job opportunities have been created directly through the two projects at Tempe. A total of 34 women are employed on site and in addition, the projects are used for training of at least 60 youth as part of the Expanded Public Works Programme – National Youth Service.

In addition, the two IDT project managers responsible for these projects have each been assigned an intern – a Central University of Technology Civil Engineering graduate and Building graduate from the University of Johannesburg – to supervise while managing these projects..

The project further highlights the IDT's capability to implement challenging projects in a sensitive brownfield security environment. This is even more challenging when taking into account the multi-disciplinary nature of the project and its stakeholders and this attests to the organisation's ability to facilitate, plan and implement social infrastructure.

The IDT is looking forward to completing the project and handing it over to the client and therefore assisting the department achieve its policy objective to improve facilities that contribute to the renewal and preservation of defence capabilities.

The IDT is a Schedule 2 entity that reports to the Minister of Public Works. It is mandated to support all spheres of government with social infrastructure management and programme implementation.

In the past five years the IDT supported 40 government departments including building 97 new schools and 36 new health facilities while renovating hundreds more and created more than 360 000 work opportunities in various communities through its implementation of social infrastructure programmes and the Expanded Public Works Programme.