

# Thirteen harbours to be upgraded

## Department of Public Works and Coega to boost fishing

**T**HE NATIONAL Department of Public Works (DPW) has teamed up with the Coega Development Corporation (CDC) on a rollout of the first phase – worth R400 million – for the upgrade on 13 provincial harbours.

The project, spearheaded by the department and implemented by the CDC seeks to boost small-scale fishing industry and tourism in the Western Cape.

“The project is tipped to change the lives of many fishing communities and tourism operators relying on 13 of the smaller proclaimed harbours in the Western Cape,” Riyaadh Kara, DPW quantity surveyor and project manager said.

“The project forms part of our focus on the oceans economy and is a strategic fit to Operation Phakisa,” adds Kara.

The CDC said it is the implementing agent on behalf of DPW and has been at the coalface in rolling out and implementing the small harbours programme.

“Since the commencement of the project, we’ve had a great working relationship with the department. We have progressed at a rapid pace and hit all the right notes in supporting the DPW’s focus on developing the maritime economy,” says Themba Koza, CDC programme director.

The 13 harbours to benefit from the upgrade include Hout Bay, Kalk Bay, Saldanha Bay, Pepper Bay, Gordon’s Bay, Hermanus, Struisbaai, Gansbaai, Stilbaai, Arniston, Laaipek, Lamberts and St Helena Bay. The CDC has procured

and appointed the necessary marine, civil and electrical engineers, as well as marine surveyors.

Since the appointment of the CDC, the organisation has successfully concluded marine surveys and reports for all 13 harbours, as well as the testing of the sediment materials that need dredging in order to open up some of the harbours.

“In many cases lives are put at risk and boats are damaged because the harbour basin and approach channel to the slipways have silted up and boats have to be launched off the beach, or only at high tide, which is why dredging is paramount to the longevity of these harbours,” adds Koza.

With the environmental impact assessments completed, all dredging dumping permits were obtained from the Department of Environmental Affairs last January. The tenders for repairs and upgrades to slipways and the replacement of shore cranes have been advertised and are in the process of selecting successful candidates.

“We are speeding up the process as quickly as possible as we understand that the livelihoods of at least 13 coastal communities are dependent on the harbour which is used by the fishing fleet and tourism operators,” says Koza.

“Work has started last year in harbours with the removal of all sunken vessels and on completion maintenance dredging will commence next month.”

The upgrades of the harbours in the Western Cape created 102 jobs. – Staff Reporter