

# R400m upgrade for 13 harbours launched

## Staff Writer

THE Department of Public Works (DPW) has teamed up with the Coega Development Corporation (CDC) on the roll-out of the first phase of a R400m upgrade for 13 Western Cape harbours.

Those to benefit include Hout Bay, Kalk Bay, Saldanha Bay, Pepper Bay, Gordon's Bay, Hermanus, Struisbaai, Gansbaai, Stilbaai, Arniston, Laaiplek, Lamberts and St Helena Bay.

Last year the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries poured cold water on the City's plan to take control of some local harbours when it said the council's proposed by-law for fishing harbours could not

supersede the Marine Living Resources Act.

This was after the City said it had no choice but to "forge ahead" with its plans, maintaining that it had the power to manage harbours in its jurisdiction as the constitution gives municipalities the "exclusive competence to administer the functional areas listed in Schedule 5, Part B".

Yesterday, Riyaadh Kara, DPW quantity surveyor and project manager, said: "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.

"It forms part of our focus on the oceans economy and is a strategic fit

to Operation Phakisa."

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

"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," said Themba Koza, CDC programme director.

The CDC has procured and appointed the necessary marine, civil and electrical engineers, as well as marine surveyors.

Since its appointment, the CDC has successfully concluded marine

surveys and reports for all harbours, as well as the testing of the sediment materials that need dredging to open up some of the harbours.

With the environmental impact assessments completed, all dredging and dumping permits were obtained from the Department of Environmental Affairs in January.

The tenders for repairs and upgrades to slipways and the replacement of shore cranes have been advertised and the process of selecting successful candidates is under way.

Work began on the harbours last year with the removal of all sunken vessels. Maintenance dredging is planned to begin in June following completion of the removals.