

# Coega can help fast track the country’s infrastructure programme through its 21-year expertise in mega infrastructure development & facilities maintenance in South Africa

Coega Development Corporation (CDC), a national public entity that develops and operates the Coega Special Economic Zone in Port Elizabeth “can help the country’s economic development in the face of the covid-19 pandemic through its 21-year expertise in implementing and fast-tracking government’s mega infrastructure programmes throughout the country,” says Dr. Ayanda Vilakazi (PhD), CDC’s Unit Head of Marketing, Brand and Communications.

Moreover, Coega as a government asset, is a symbol of success, and the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition’s (*the dtic’s*) pride and joy in terms of the SEZ programme. It is arguably the most successful Special Economic Zone and infrastructure development public entity in South Africa. It has won numerous prestigious awards, i.e., the 2019 Investor of the year award by *the dtic*, Proudly South African and Brand South Africa, amongst others. “The SEZ programme is one of the strategic tools for industrialisation, promotion of investments and exports, as well as creation of the much-needed jobs, especially for the youth.



CDC Head Office: some of the accolades received by Coega including its commitment to achieving NDP 2030 vision.



The winners of the 6th Annual South African Premier Business Awards by *the dtic*. The awards were announced in March 2019 at the Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg. Coega won the Investor of the Year Award.

Coega has in its employ highly experienced civil engineers, professional service providers, project accountants, and programme managers, some of whom have PhDs and are experts and thought leaders in the various fields; these are the people who have been instrumental to the success of Coega and can be utilised to meet the objectives of the investment and infrastructure office in the presidency and other government departments.

Furthermore, “Coega has a proven track record of clean governance when implementing these projects, having achieved an unqualified audit opinion (“clean audit”) by the Auditor General of South Africa (AGSA) for the period 2019/20 financial year,” said Dr. Vilakazi. Therefore, all the sampled infrastructure projects in the country worth more than R2.2billion have “passed” the scrutiny of the AGSA. More information in this regard can be found on the Coega website (<https://www.coega.co.za/DataRepository/Documents/1bLvJV3hPBqe31fNkrvHSdO2H.pdf>).

Coega’s 21-year experience has “empowered growth and sustainable development” in SA through infrastructure development & facilities maintenance, in accordance with the NDP 2030 Vision, by turning ordinary businesses, individuals and communities’ dreams into reality, connecting them to the future, and improving the quality of life for all. The NDP aims to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality by 2030; quality basic education and a long & healthy life for all are some of the key priority outcomes. Therefore, the schools and hospitals Coega build, amongst other projects, contribute towards improving the quality of life and health status through the prevention of illnesses and promotion of healthy lifestyles. All these projects ensure the sustainable livelihoods of citizens, create jobs, and improve the socio-economic conditions of our people.

The evidence shows that Coega can:-

- deliver better value for money for government departments and beneficiaries/ communities;
- deliver projects faster than other similar agencies in the country and it does this within scope, budget, timeframes, and quality;
- deliver projects at affordable costs to government clients; and
- provide the best skills set in the industry to government departments and private sector organisations.

The Tshwane Automotive Special Economic Zone, recently visited in February 2021 by H.E. President Ramaphosa, is evidence to some of Coega’s achievements where the Ford Motor Corporation of South Africa (FMCSA) is developing a \$1.05 billion facility to expand its Ford Ranger assembly facility in Silverton, Tshwane; the biggest investment by the US group in 97 years of operation in this country.

## COEGA SEZ FOCUS SECTORS



Successful Special Economic Zone in Africa

When completed, the project will pump R1,3 billion in wages and salaries annually into the Tshwane economy. FMC International Marketing Group Operations Director, Andrew Cavallaro, said the investment would turn the Silverton plant, already one of the largest of Ford’s production hubs outside of the US, into a state-of-the-art production facility, and which would play an important role in Ford’s global operations. “Ranger is one of our highest volume, most successful global vehicles. This investment will equip our team with the tools and facilities to deliver the best Ford Ranger ever, in higher numbers and with superior quality,” said Cavallaro.

Coega is an Infrastructure Implementing Agent for TASEZ, given its 21-year expertise in mega infrastructure development projects in Southern Africa. We are working hard to fast-track the construction and to meet socio-economic objectives of the project, and the Ford Motor Company of Southern Africa’s investment goals, said Dr. Vilakazi.

The TASEZ project is implemented in collaboration with the City of Tshwane, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, and Gauteng Government.



Artist Impression: Site Construction

Other SEZ projects that have been implemented by Coega include those in Richardsbay SEZ, Nkomazi SEZ, Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LIDA), Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA), Northern Cape Economic Development Trade and Investment Agency (Nceda), Chris Hani Development Agency, and Wild Coast Industrial Park, to name but a few.

Other Coega complex mega infrastructure development & maintenance projects include the newly unveiled Anton Lembede Maths, Science & Technology Academy by the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Premier, Honourable Sihle Zikalala on 15 February 2021 (first day of school in South Africa). The R255 million Maths, Science & Technology Academy will see over six hundred (600) learners gaining access to a state-of-the-art academy. The facility, which contains twenty (20) classrooms, one (1) specialist classroom, a library, three (3) computer labs and three (3) science labs marks a significant milestone in the infrastructure programme of the KZN Province.



Anton Lembede Maths, Science & Technology Academy: La Mercy in KwaZulu-Natal.