

CRU Implementing Agency Challenge Resolved Says GKM

By Sonica Naudé-Steyn

Greater Kokstad Mayor, MNL Madikizela, last Thursday during a media briefing stated that the municipality has resolved challenges with the Implementing Agency in terms of the Community Residential Units.

Recently a group of aggrieved applicants picketed in front of the municipal building due to unsubstantiated allegations which claimed that they would have to re-apply for residency in the units or that they would no longer qualify. According to Madikizela, this issue has been resolved and the units near completion. He said that 252 units are on 'practical completion' while an additional 48 units are still under construction.

He further stated that the Supply Chain Management processes are at an advanced stage to appoint an Implementing Agency for the construction of 1003 housing units in Shayamoya and that the municipality is in the process of disposing (selling) of 34 residential properties at Franklin and various other sites around town that are zones for mixed commercial purposes. He also mentioned the concerning 'mushrooming' of informal settlements in Marikana and appealed to residents to work with authorities to curb this challenge.

During the briefing Madikizela also gave updates on various road rehabilitation projects including Shayamoya Phase 4A (connecting Bhongweni and Shayamoya via Marikana), rehabilitation of Murray Street (from Avenue to entrance of Shayamoya via Mt Currie High School), rehabilitation of R617 from Kokstad to Franklin via Extension 7 (KZN Department of Transport) and the N2 Interchange by SANRAL, which he says is progressing well.

He said in the next few weeks the GKM would be introducing contractors for the rehabilitation of Shayamoya Roads Phase 4B (Ward 4), upgrading of polar Park Roads and Crossings (ward 7), and Franklin Roads Upgrade.

"This is a Labour-Intensive Programme by the municipality in collaboration with Department of Transport with an intake of 148 participants contracted for a period of 3 years. These road construction projects form part of the Council's Integrated Development Plan (IDP) since coming into office in 2021 to rehabilitate road networks in and

around Kokstad as means to address structural issues and to prevent future safety hazards. In addition, we have a total of 190 EPWP participants varying from Public Administration, Crime Prevention Infrastructure and Technical Services, Pound Management, Clearing of Illegal Dumping. In October this year, we will be having an additional 200 EPWP participants," said Madikizela.

During the briefing the Mayor admitted that there is a backlog in terms of dealing with vagrants and that steps are being taken, together with the SAPS to deal with the issue. The Mayor however said that the issue of drug and substance abuse also need to be addressed as this adds to the vagrancy problem.

Madikizela also gave an update on water issues on behalf of the Harry Gwala District Municipality. He said that projects under construction include the Bhongweni Reservoir (intended to increase water capacity for areas of Ward 8, 9 & 10); refurbishment and upgrade of water infrastructure in Shayamoya (construction of 4800m long, 315mm gravity pipeline for the Shayamoya Low Level Command Reservoir with additional water storage reservoir) and the continuation of the construction of the Kempsdale Dam.



GKM Municipal Manager, Sipho Zwane (right) giving the purpose of the day while Mayor Madikizela watches on.