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LYDENBURG: The MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Mr Thulasizwe Thomo, officially turned the sod in Lydenburg to mark the commencement of the rehabilitation and upgrading of the D2571 (Lydenburg By-Pass). Accompanied by the executive mayor of Thaba Chweu Local Municipality, Cllr. Mogotle Friddah Nkadimeng, the MEC, also officially handed over the appointed contractor, MAHCON, to the community. Addressing stakeholders and residents, MEC Thomo called on the department, Thaba Chweu Local Municipality, the contractor and the community to work together to safeguard the project and ensure that it is completed without unnecessary delays. The MEC noted that several infrastructure projects being implemented by the Department in Thaba Chweu have experienced disruptions, resulting in missed completion deadlines. "It is for this reason that government has taken a firm stance to work closely with the South African Police Service to address the bullying and unlawful disruption of construction projects," said MEC Thomo. The MEC further appealed to the contractor to commence physical construction work as soon as possible to ensure that communities begin experiencing the benefits of the project without further delay. The executive mayor, Cllr. Mogotle Friddah Nkadimeng welcomed the commencement of the project, describing it as an investment in both infrastructure and the local economy. "This project is about more than just building a road. It is about creating employment opportunities, empowering local SMMEs, improving road safety and stimulating economic growth for our communities," she said. The R199 million road rehabilitation and upgrading project commenced on 21 May 2026 and is currently 33% through its mobilisation phase. It is expected to create approximately 200 employment opportunities for local residents and is scheduled for completion by 19 April 2028.

