

**Minister of Public Works
Ms S Sigcau
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Opening of the Kokstad Prison

Programme Director, Mr Luzuko Jacobs
Deputy President, Mr Jacob Zuma
Minister of Correctional Services, Mr Ben M Skosana
Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Mr LTH Mtshali
Mayor of the Sisonke Municipal District, Mr Patrick Khoza
Acting Provincial Chaplain in KwaZulu-Natal, Rev Alpha Mkhwanazi
Distinguished guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

To help in the combating of our high crime rates in South Africa, this new Super-Maximum Prison, together with a logistical supporting Medium Prison and Housing Complex were built at a total cost of R450 million (R450 026 700).

The Super-Maximum Prison, also known as the Ebongweni Correctional Centre (>R314 million), caters for 1 440 inmates, housed in single cells, controlled by electronic surveillance and a unit management system. Support buildings include the Area Manager's Office, Prison Access Control, Admissions and Visitors area, Hospital, Pre-Integration and a Central Unit Management Facility, all linked by secure corridors.

The Super-maximum Prison is the first of its kind in South Africa and in its size and scale the largest in the world. Its planning and design are based on modern concepts of similar institutions elsewhere in the world, e.g. in France and the USA. The guiding principles in developing the design were to make it staff efficient and security control easy.

The Medium Prison (<R89 million) caters for 294 inmates, housed in double cells, controlled by electronic surveillance and a unit management system. Support buildings include the Access Control Administration as well as the Admissions and Visitors areas, the Hospital, Laundry, Kitchen, Garage and Vehicle Workshop and Logistic Stores.

The Medium Prison has its design and planning principles based on the modern concepts of new generation prisons. A unit management system with emphasis on rehabilitation is the hallmark of these designs. In Kokstad this facility has a minor modification in that its low population will largely staff the kitchen and laundry and vehicle maintenance and logistic store facilities, which also serve the Super-maximum Prison.

The Housing and Single Quarters contract (<R47 million) incorporates 114 Houses and Single Quarters for 80 staff members.

The design and tender documentation for the three projects was carried out simultaneously by a dedicated team of 28 professional practices including Architects, Quantity Surveyors, Civil, Structural, Electrical, Mechanical and Security Engineers within 3 months from the time of appointment and the contract briefing meeting.

In support of poverty alleviation and job creation the Kokstad Prisons Projects were tendered under a Targeted Procurement Policy intended to redress the skewed business ownership patterns in South Africa that arose from the system of apartheid. The main target group identified in this policy is small businesses owned, managed and controlled by black South Africans. This policy has not only resulted in increased participation by the target group (Affirmable Business Enterprises), but also in the formalisation of this sector and a more structured relationship within the industry.

On the Super-maximum Prison the contractor achieved an overall Contract Participation Goal (CPG) credit of 66%, which is 26% in excess of the required maximum CPG of 40%.

The Medium Prison provided an opportunity for Affirmable Joint Venture Partners to develop, access capacity and acquire business skills through the execution of contracts at a Prime Contractor level. The contractor furthermore engaged several ABE sub-contractors at various stages of the construction project, exceeding the specified participation goal.

The impact of the project itself on the local economy was demonstrated by the analysis of the contractor's report that indicated payment to local labour in excess of R1,5 million and remuneration for local resources in excess of R5 million.

The Regional Empowerment Manager, who monitored the progress of this project in terms of the tender specification, listed the following as issues for merit:

- The contractor has shown a genuine interest in Community Upliftment and the Training of Employees.
- During the construction period the contractor engaged graduate bricklayers from the local skills training school.
- Staff was sent on an office training course for the upliftment of computer skills.
- Full support of local service providers was used for the procurement of day-to-day use of goods and services.

I agree with the Regional Empowerment Manager who concluded that the contractor has absorbed a vast amount of knowledge and that this knowledge will not be lost in the construction industry.

The three prison projects, running concurrently, between them employed a peak labour force of approximately 2 940. All three contractors also fully supported a Training Centre, which has specifically been established in Kokstad to serve the local community. All three contractors contributed to management mentoring, both in their dealings with the many sub-contractors involved and through the employment and training of management staff on site.

I now have the pleasure of handing over a symbolic key to the Minister of Correctional Services, Colleague Ben Skosana.

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