

Exxaro Commits R15M on Road Infrastructure

By Thulane Madalane

Belfast: Mining giant Exxaro has committed R 15 Million through its Belfast coal operation, the money is meant to rehabilitate four main streets in Belfast. During the sod turning ceremony which took place on Friday which was attended by few people because of the covid-19 restrictions on large gatherings, the Executive Mayor of Emakhazeni Local Municipality Cllr TD Ngwenya told Timeless News that he is happy that the strategic conversations that they had with Exxaro is bearing fruits “ we had strategic conversations with Exxaro that their Social Labour Plan from 2009 to 2025 should be on road infrastructure development, indeed today there are making that a reality on the 1 November 2020 the first contractor will begin its work and the second contractor will be appointed in January next year.



Cllr T.E Sheffers, Executive Mayor of Emakhazeni Local Municipality Cllr TD Ngwenya, Exxaro's Executive Head Stakeholder Affairs Mr Mzila Mthenjane and Belfast

Let me assure the people of Emakhazeni that the main contractor, subcontractor and laborers will be from Emakhazeni” quipped the mayor. The mayor also emphasized the fact all mines that want to bring developments in Emakhazeni need to align their SLPs with the Municipality's Integrated Development Plans. The mayor also made a passionate plea to Exxaro to expand the capacity of its Enterprise Development Unit because unemployment rate in Emakhazeni is at 25, 9%. Exxaro was represented by its Executive Head of Stakeholder Affairs Mr Mzila Mthenjane who believes that money is not an obstacle to development but it only requires good Projects “I believe that we can overcome the challenges of poverty and unemployment, you have no idea how much money is available in the world, it only needs right projects but our biggest challenge is leadership, as leader in Exxaro I believe ii three leadership qualities shared vision, courage and selflessness. Mayor let me say to you won't be able to this with your team alone, this going to be a partnership and partnerships requires patience, it took us ten years to start our operations here because there was resistance from environmentalist groups. For developments like these to happen we need peace and harmony, which will not only attract local investors alone but offshore investors too.” Concluded Mthenjane.

This project has potential to employ many young people from Belfast and surrounding areas because most of them are facing the same challenge of unemployment like the rest of the young people in South Africa.

Timeless News spoke to one of the youngsters from the area Tshepo Zwane who couldn't hide his joy about the prospect of landing employment just before December holidays, “ my brother you have no idea how happy I am about this project because it will benefit us young people of the area, we are going to a critical season of December holidays at least if we get an opportunity to work on this project our families won't have a black Christmas, we will put smiles on their faces thank you Exxaro” said the ecstatic Zwane