NANDONI DAM'S FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT

According to Kekana, an added benefit to the local authority was that additional revenue of rates and taxes from these commercial facilities would go towards the cost of running and maintaining the bus/taxi rank. A culmination of two years of research and planning, Kekana said the intermodal facility bore testimony that the ANC-led government was correcting the apartheid regime's policy of segregated development by transforming the public transport system to enable all South Africans to enjoy greater access to economic and employment opportunities as well as social recreation.

Regarding the objectives of the new facility, Kekana said: “It is important to outline the objectives of this facility so that when complete, it can serve its intended objectives including promoting the use of public transport; improving operational efficiency; reducing congestion; using space efficiently; providing safety and comfort; promoting entrepreneurship; providing adequate facilities and improving accessibility.”

In recent years, an increasing emphasis has been placed on designing facilities that make transfers easier and seamless, said Kekana. “These are intended to help passengers move from one mode of transport to another with ease. We could not be left wanting, and thus a comprehensive plan for the facility is complete will render services including local taxi operations; long distance taxi operations; local buses operations; long distance bus operations and metered taxis,” she added.

Regarding local economic development, Kekana said: “Business and job creation are the main purposes of this facility and as a model we must display going forward. The ANC-led government has always emphasised the importance of uplifting our people’s social economic being by ensuring that everything we do addresses the issues of poverty alleviation”. She added: “While we are celebrating the launch of this grand facility, tenders are being called for the construction of the taxi rank including the first phase of commercial development. This process will also assist in poverty alleviation as our people will be employed during the development and construction phase. The facility will be designed to take into account our cultural and historical background. It is not just a concrete structure, but something we can identify with. Upon conclusion, this area will have its own landmark that is synonymous with cultural nature of Vhembe people.”

According to Kekana, the design of this facility also aims to provide comfort and dignity to the beneficiaries of the facility. “Over 27 000 commuters/passengers will use this new facility in a day. The facility also provides offices that can be utilised by local and provincial government and the private providers in order to improve the environment in which government services are provided.”

“The National Household Travel Survey (2005) revealed that nearly two thirds of households in South Africa do not have access to public transport. People also have the desire to announce and unveil this transport facility that is a treasure not only to Thohoyandou, but also the whole Limpopo Province,” she added.

It is a project that we can all be proud of as users and beneficiaries of this facility,” she said. Kekana called upon the community to take care of this project and jealously guard against its misuse. “This is your project we hope that, once completed, it will accomplish its purpose of transforming the transport landscape of our province for the better,” she concluded.

CONSTRUCTION OF R317 MILLION THOHONYANDOU INTERMODAL TRANSPORT FACILITY ABOUT TO START

Planned to commence in June 2011 and to be completed in November 2013, the groundbreaking construction of the R317 million worth Thohoyandou Intermodal Transport Facility that is being compared to the renowned Park Station is intended to provide user-friendly and accessible transport between buses, minibus-taxis and metered taxis within one location.

Unveiling the project at Thohoyandou Town Hall on Thursday, 05 May 2011, MEC of Roads and Transport, Pinkkie Kekana, said that just like at the popular Johannesbourg station, the intermodal approach supported existed transport infrastructure, existing business and pedestrian circulation. “It further integrates transport and a business node, links civic functions, promotes public participation and is cost effective. It provides for an integrated system which includes and supports current public transport facilities,” said Kekana. Highlighting the facility’s key features, Kekana said: “This being an intermodal facility for taxis and buses, emphasis has been placed on ensuring that our people from around Thohoyandou can also benefit from this facility. The facility provides for the necessary job creation opportunities.”

Kekana added: “These opportunities are manifested through the construction stage and the trader facilities and with some 5 500 m² of commercial / retail space. This will create 800 temporary positions during construction and at least 400 permanent jobs through commercial trading ventures and the operations and maintenance of the bus and taxi ranks. For this facility we have prescribed a strict minimum of 30% local participation in the construction. This will also mean that local contractors and labourers will play a meaningful role in the construction phase”.

According to Kekana, an added benefit to the local authority was that additional revenue of rates and taxes from these commercial facilities would go towards the cost of running and maintaining the bus/taxi rank. A culmination of two years of research and planning, Kekana said the intermodal facility bore testimony that the ANC-led government was correcting the apartheid regime’s policy of segregated development by transforming the public transport system to enable all South Africans to enjoy greater access to economic and employment opportunities as well as social recreation.

Regarding the objectives of the new facility, Kekana said: “It is important to outline the objectives of this facility so that when complete, it can serve its intended objectives including promoting the use of public transport; improving operational efficiency; reducing congestion; using space efficiently; providing safety and comfort; promoting entrepreneurship; providing adequate facilities and improving accessibility.”

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As various communities that lack supply of sufficient water were still baffled by the sudden halt of the Nandoni Dam project, the Department of Water Affairs has allocated R740 million to fix weak water pipes so that more communities can have access to clean water. Addressing thousands of residents gathered at the Damari sports ground during the celebration of Water Week on Tuesday, 22 March 2011, Limpopo Province MEC for Housing and Local Government, Soviet Legkanyane said: “The department of Water Affairs has put aside R740 million in this financial year which is going to replace weak water pipes and I think this programme will alleviate challenges that people around Nandoni Dam are facing.

He added: “Secondly the department has put aside R12 million which is going to be used to erect water pipes at Mukula and we hope that this project and