



Knysna

Municipality || Munisipaliteit || uMasipala

inclusive || innovative || inspired

MEDIA RELEASE

Embargo: Immediate

DATE: Tuesday 23 February 2021

Electricity capital projects on a strong current

Knysna Municipality Acting Municipal Manager Dawid Adonis said that the municipality's electro-technical capital projects for the 2020/2021 financial year are making progress. "While we are making headway on our projects, we have faced, and must still deal with, challenges that have a hampering effect on progress."

COVID-19 has had a negative influence on many industries and has, amongst others, affected the availability of required materials. The closure of businesses over the festive season has also impacted the municipality's programme. "We are however working hard to make up for lost time and to maintain, improve and expand on our electrical service delivery."

The Department of Energy (DoE), Integrated National Electrification Programme (INEP) has seen 24 connections/in fills made at informal houses in Bongani Valley, and 27 completed in Slangepark. A further amount of R5 million has been provided for the electrification of formal households in Xolweni and Hornlee.

"A contractor has been appointed, and a construction programme provided to the Municipality. The electrification of Hornlee and Xolweni newly constructed houses will commence mid-March 2021 and completed before the financial year end. The public will be kept up to date on further developments."

After meetings were held with each ward councillor, internal funding of R2,16 million was made available from the electrification budget for electrification within wards 1, 3, 4, 7 and 8. "Under this programme we have completed 43 connections in ward 1, 15 in ward 3, 16 in ward 4 and 29 in ward 8," said Adonis. "A further 30 will be made in ward 3 and ring-fence service connections will be made in ward 7."

This budget also allows R3 million for the informal electrification of settlements aligned to the Integrated Development Plan and stakeholder engagement from ward councillors. This includes areas in wards 1, 3, 4, 7 and 8. "Site investigations will be conducted and the consultants will submit their final designs before the contractor can begin with construction work."

"Residents are reminded that a connection fee of R356.07 is payable," said Adonis. "Registered indigent households will not have to pay the connection fee. For those who have not yet registered as indigent, the registration procedure must be followed in order for them to qualify as an indigent household."

"Work at the Brenton substation has unfortunately been delayed as the COVID-19 pandemic has delayed the delivery of key components from France," Adonis explained. "This project included the construction of a switching station building and the installation of an indoor switchgear. The contractor is on site and will complete the project once the necessary equipment arrives."

Phase two of works at the Eastford substation included refurbishing the transformer and rebuilding the 40 year-old Medium Voltage line. "The condition of the old line resulted in unplanned power outages during poor weather conditions," said Adonis. "This new feeder is also an alternative supply to the Concordia treatment works."

“The upgrade between the Shamrock switching station and the Telkom General Post Office has been completed, now providing a stable ring between the Industrial Area, Hornlee and Oupad,” he continued. “The scope of works included a new proposed interconnector and a variation order has been submitted to the Bid Adjudication Committee to refurbish the megavolt lines between the Industrial Area substation and Khayaletu.”

The first section of the Brackenhill streetlight project is done. The municipality is awaiting a second point of supply from Eskom before the next section may be completed. The switchgear for phase three of works at the municipal workshop has been ordered and, if delivered according to schedule, works should be completed by mid-March.

“Doing what we can to keep the lights burning and electricity running is a big part of creating an innovative, inspired and inclusive Knysna,” Adonis concluded. “While unavoidable delays have slowed the progress of certain projects, we are committed to living up to all our commitments.”

For more information on indigent registration/application, please contact the municipality’s Credit Control Department at Main Street Knysna or call 044 302 6470 / 6411 / 6321 / 6581 / 6542.

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