



DIRECTORATE: COMMUNICATION

Envisaged ``Nelson Mandela Highway'' for Mahikeng in the making...

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What could technically be called planned ``Phase 2'' of the rehabilitation of the Mahikeng to Lichtenburg road was officially unveiled to the public on Mandela Day little wonder, the mooted name for would be state of art road project, according to the Premier of the province, Supra Mahumapelo will be Nelson Mandela Highway.

Two imposing mega size and double-sided billboards are positioned just outside Mahikeng town. One near the newly opened Bophelong Psychiatric Hospital- also opened on Mandela Day- and the other near Danville suburb.

They artistic impressions on both bill boards give a glimpse to all road users of the 30km notorious section of this road, what is in store in the not so distance future.

Notorious is that particular sections of the road- the portion in the vicinity of Rooigrond Prison and that gentle curve towards the Birmansdrift turn off from the direction of Mahikeng- where countless lives and limp have been lost due to fatal vehicle accidents.

Back to the envisaged new-look Nelson Mandela Highway, which will be an extension of the of Nelson Mandela Street in from Mahikeng inner city:

Then total length of the road to get a face-lift is 30km and this is what is expected to be special about the 10km thereof.

From Danville until Rooigrond Prison area, a new carriage way is on the cards to enable two vehicles to travel in one direction in separate lanes both ways, which suggest the road will be broadened to also accommodate increased traffic volumes leaving or entering Mahikeng town.

A traffic circle is part of the mix for free-flow traffic also from the direction of Bophelong Hospital. The traffic circle itself is envisaged to have captivating themes like a fountain and decorations that talk to Mahikeng as a city of goodwill in order enhance its status as seat of the provincial government.

The decision to plan this mega upgrade and generate so much interest is this is a strategic road for the economy of Mahikeng, and situations permitting, three years is the projected period for the completion of the Nelson Mandela Highway
However work should ideally starts with three month from now if all is smooth sailing more so, the project is currently out on tender!

Rehabilitation and upgrades to the ``Nelson Mandela Highway" have also prompted improvement plans for other feeder roads around Mahikeng.

Plans were announced to upgrade the from Setlopo, through Mantsa to Mareetsane (41km) the road from Lokaleng (Mmabatho Unit 2) to Tlapeng (29km), Nooitgedacht to Kaalpan Road (16km) half of which will be regravelled. The department of Public Works and Roads is in the process of appointing engineers to design the latter road.

Meanwhile, the R116.5million completed road project from Setlopo to Meetmekaar (D413) was officially opened on Tuesday this week by the Premier Supra Mahumapelo, MEC of Public Works and Roads Madoda Sambatha.

All these, including other planned infrastructure developments in the pipeline like the new stadium, international convention centre, hotel and government precinct are part of the repositioning, rebranding and renewal of Mahikeng as a capital of Bokone Bophirima.

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