



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM
AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

OFFICE OF THE MEC

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Speaker: Ms N Boyce

KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Legislature

241 Langalibalele Street

PIETERMARITZBURG

3200

WRITTEN REPLY

**NO. 155/2021 MR C J PAPPAS (DA) TO ASK THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS ON HOWICK FALLS**

**IN RELATION TO THE SOPA ADDRESS 2021 WHERE THE PREMIER SPOKE OF THE
HOWICK FALLS PRECINCT DEVELOPMENT:**

**1. HOW MUCH (IN RANDES) HAS BEEN ALLOCATED TO PLAN AND IMPLEMENT THIS
PROJECT?**

The Department had initially allocated an amount of R4 million for the project which was revised to R5 million during the 2020/21 financial year. It is estimated that the planning phase will not cost more than R 300 000 which will include Architectural design and Bill of Quantities (BoQ). The balance of R 4, 7 million will be utilized for the actual implementation and professional fees as covered in Q6 below. However, should there be any budget short fall, other activities/deliverables listed in question 6 will form part of phase two implementation and additional funding will be sourced internally from the department or from other stakeholders such as the National Department of Tourism to ensure the completion of the project.

2. WHO IS THE IMPLEMENT AGENT/DEPARTMENT?

The Department through UMgungundlovu District Municipality has appointed UMgungundlovu Economic Development Agency (UMEDA) as an implementing Agent for the project and funds have already been transferred to the Agency during 2020/21 financial year.



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3. WHEN WILL THE PROJECT BREAK GROUND?

The Implementing Agent is currently in the process of appointing an Architect to design and prepare the entire precinct plans for implementation. This process is anticipated to take a period of two months (June and July 2021) should there be no delays.

4. WHEN WILL THE PROJECT BE COMPLETED?

It is anticipated that the project will be completed in June 2022 should there be no delays.

5. WHEN WILL THE PLANS BE MADE PUBLIC?

The plans will be made available to the public upon finalization and approval in August 2021 should there be no delays. The planning phase is expected to take a period of two months (June to July 2021).

a. IF THEY ARE PUBLIC WHERE CAN THEY BE OBTAINED?

The plans will be available for viewing from the Umngeni Local Municipality upon completion and approval in August 2021 should there be no delays.

6. WHAT DOES THE PROJECT ENTAIL?

The project entails the development, installation, construction of bulk infrastructure, upgrade and maintenance of tourism facilities, and other amenities within the Howick Falls precincts listed as activity/deliverable in table (a). These activities /deliverables will be funded through an estimated implementation budget as highlighted in Q1.

a. PLEASE PROVIDE DETAILS.

ITEM	ACTIVITY/ DELIVERABLES
Bulk Infrastructure upgrade	Internal Roads Lighting Storm water drainage Central Play Area Amphitheatre Paved walking/ cycling 3 meter wide precinct



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ITEM	ACTIVITY/ DELIVERABLES
Facility upgrade	Visitor Information Centre Braai facilities Mini Golf Ablutions Hawkers and vendors facilities Gorge walk Restaurant Howick Falls Restaurant
Security Fencing and Boom Gate	Installation of 300m 2.4 high clearVu and two Boom gates
Maintenance	Bush, mowing and invasive weeds clearing Gorge walk Trail
Gorge Walk	Clearing and formalising bush walk to falls – walk rights leased to Pvt Entity
Branding and Promotion	Installation of directional signage and branding collateral

7. WHAT STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT HAS TAKEN PLACE?

The first stakeholder engagement took place on the 26th of September 2019 led by the National Parliament Portfolio Committee on Tourism in collaboration with the Department. Subsequent to that, consultations have been held through the Intergovernmental Task Team (ITT) with various representatives from different Organisations/interested parties comprising of the following organisations:

- Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental affairs (Championing Department- Programme 6);
- UMgungundlovu District Municipality;
- UMgungundlovu Development Agency;
- Umngeni Local Municipality;
- KwaZulu-Natal Tourism Authority;
- Trade and Investment KwaZulu-Natal;



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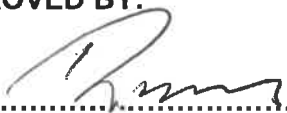
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- COGTA;
- National Department of Tourism;
- SAPS;
- Local Tourism Association;
- Business Chamber and
- Any other organisations that will be identified by stakeholders.

a. WHAT FUTURE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS ARE PLANNED?

Further consultations and engagements will be done through a schedule of meetings for the ITT as a representative structure of the key stakeholders. These meetings will sit on a monthly basis during the implementation of the project or as and when required.

Separate engagements will be scheduled with the council of Umngeni Local Municipality, business fraternity and Informal Traders around the Howick Falls Precinct.

SUBMITTED BY  MR N. NKONTWANA HEAD OF DEPARTMENT DATE: <u>19/5/2021</u>	APPROVED BY:  MR R R PILLAY, MPL MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS DATE: <u>25/05/21</u>
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