

# Coega can help fast track the country’s infrastructure programme through its 21-year expertise in mega infrastructure development & facilities maintenance in South Africa

Coega Development Corporation (CDC), a national public entity that develops and operates the Coega Special Economic Zone in Port Elizabeth “can help the country’s economic development in the face of the covid-19 pandemic through its 21-year expertise in implementing and fast-tracking government’s mega infrastructure programmes throughout the country,” says Dr. Ayanda Vilakazi (PhD), CDC’s Unit Head of Marketing, Brand and Communications.

Moreover, Coega as a government asset, is a symbol of success, and the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition’s (*the dtic’s*) pride and joy in terms of the SEZ programme. It is arguably the most successful Special Economic Zone and infrastructure development public entity in South Africa. It has won numerous prestigious awards, i.e., the 2019 Investor of the year award by *the dtic*, Proudly South African and Brand South Africa, amongst others. “The SEZ programme is one of the strategic tools for industrialisation, promotion of investments and exports, as well as creation of the much-needed jobs, especially for the youth.



CDC Head Office: some of the accolades received by Coega including its commitment to achieving NDP 2030 vision.



The winners of the 6th Annual South African Premier Business Awards by *the dtic*. The awards were announced in March 2019 at the Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg. Coega won the Investor of the Year Award.

Coega has in its employ highly experienced civil engineers, professional service providers, project accountants, and programme managers, some of whom have PhDs and are experts and thought leaders in the various fields; these are the people who have been instrumental to the success of Coega and can be utilised to meet the objectives of the investment and infrastructure office in the presidency and other government departments.

Furthermore, “Coega has a proven track record of clean governance when implementing these projects, having achieved an unqualified audit opinion (“clean audit”) by the Auditor General of South Africa (AGSA) for the period 2019/20 financial year,” said Dr. Vilakazi. Therefore, all the sampled infrastructure projects in the country worth more than R2.2billion have “passed” the scrutiny of the AGSA. More information in this regard can be found on the Coega website (<https://www.coega.co.za/DataRepository/Documents/1bLvJV3hPBqe31fNkrvHSdO2H.pdf>).

Coega’s 21-year experience has “empowered growth and sustainable development” in SA through infrastructure development & facilities maintenance, in accordance with the NDP 2030 Vision, by turning ordinary businesses, individuals and communities’ dreams into reality, connecting them to the future, and improving the quality of life for all. The NDP aims to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality by 2030; quality basic education and a long & healthy life for all are some of the key priority outcomes. Therefore, the schools and hospitals Coega build, amongst other projects, contribute towards improving the quality of life and health status through the prevention of illnesses and promotion of healthy lifestyles. All these projects ensure the sustainable livelihoods of citizens, create jobs, and improve the socio-economic conditions of our people.

The evidence shows that Coega can:-

- deliver better value for money for government departments and beneficiaries/ communities;
- deliver projects faster than other similar agencies in the country and it does this within scope, budget, timeframes, and quality;
- deliver projects at affordable costs to government clients; and
- provide the best skills set in the industry to government departments and private sector organisations.

The Tshwane Automotive Special Economic Zone, recently visited in February 2021 by H.E. President Ramaphosa, is evidence to some of Coega’s achievements where the Ford Motor Corporation of South Africa (FMCSA) is developing a \$1.05 billion facility to expand its Ford Ranger assembly facility in Silverton, Tshwane; the biggest investment by the US group in 97 years of operation in this country.

## COEGA SEZ FOCUS SECTORS



Successful Special Economic Zone in Africa

When completed, the project will pump R1,3 billion in wages and salaries annually into the Tshwane economy. FMC International Marketing Group Operations Director, Andrew Cavallaro, said the investment would turn the Silverton plant, already one of the largest of Ford’s production hubs outside of the US, into a state-of-the-art production facility, and which would play an important role in Ford’s global operations. “Ranger is one of our highest volume, most successful global vehicles. This investment will equip our team with the tools and facilities to deliver the best Ford Ranger ever, in higher numbers and with superior quality,” said Cavallaro.

Coega is an Infrastructure Implementing Agent for TASEZ, given its 21-year expertise in mega infrastructure development projects in Southern Africa. We are working hard to fast-track the construction and to meet socio-economic objectives of the project, and the Ford Motor Company of Southern Africa’s investment goals, said Dr. Vilakazi.

The TASEZ project is implemented in collaboration with the City of Tshwane, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, and Gauteng Government.



Artist Impression: Site Construction

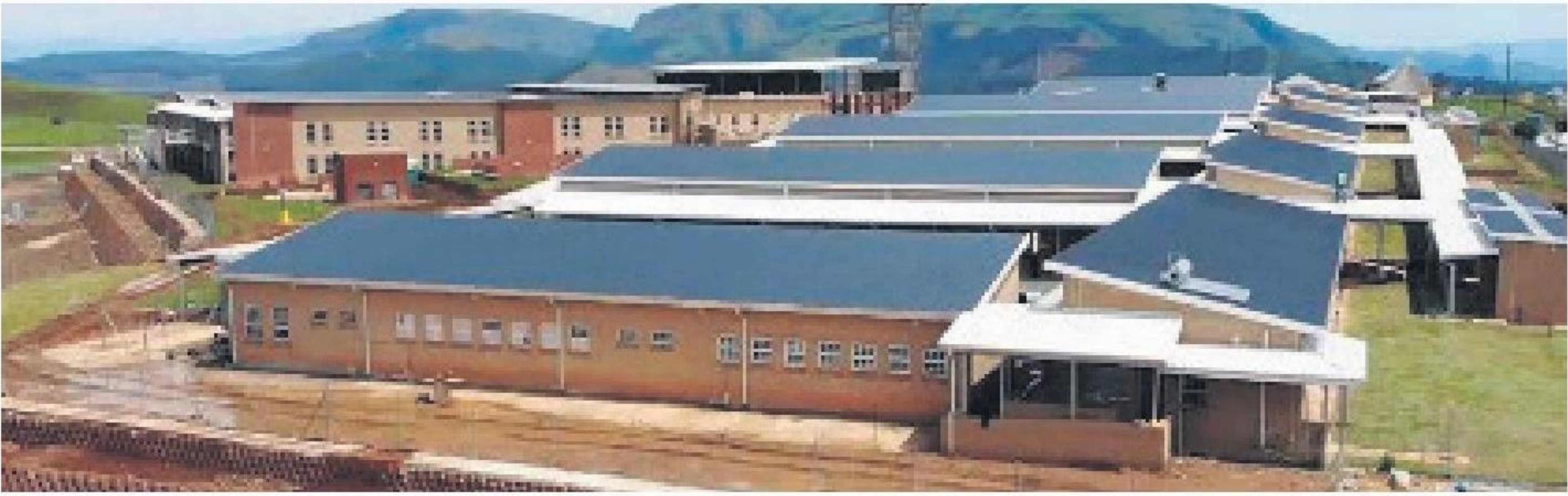
Other SEZ projects that have been implemented by Coega include those in Richardsbay SEZ, Nkomazi SEZ, Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LIDA), Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA), Northern Cape Economic Development Trade and Investment Agency (Nceda), Chris Hani Development Agency, and Wild Coast Industrial Park, to name but a few.

Other Coega complex mega infrastructure development & maintenance projects include the newly unveiled Anton Lembede Maths, Science & Technology Academy by the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Premier, Honourable Sihle Zikalala on 15 February 2021 (first day of school in South Africa). The R255 million Maths, Science & Technology Academy will see over six hundred (600) learners gaining access to a state-of-the-art academy. The facility, which contains twenty (20) classrooms, one (1) specialist classroom, a library, three (3) computer labs and three (3) science labs marks a significant milestone in the infrastructure programme of the KZN Province.



Anton Lembede Maths, Science & Technology Academy: La Mercy in KwaZulu-Natal.

Another significant project implemented by Coega in KwaZulu-Natal is Pholela Special School for Learners with Special Educational Needs (LSEN).



Pholela Special School for Learners with Special Educational Needs (LSEN) in KwaZulu-Natal.

The new school is situated in the Harry Gwala District and is earmarked for full completion in April 2021. The R210 million school has created over 500 jobs, providing opportunities to emerging businesses, with over 30 local SMMEs participating and benefiting from the construction of the project. The 350 pupil capacity school will see scores of scholars gain access to a brand-new accommodation facility housing 200 learners. The state-of-the-art facility comprises of various amenities including but not limited to 23 standard classrooms, multipurpose classrooms, admin block, media centre, two special needs classrooms and therapy, four special needs classrooms, computer lab, guardhouse, equipment store, and four well equipped ablution blocks.

Coega’s achievements extend to the Eastern Cape Province where it has successfully built Hospitals, Clinics, and Schools infrastructure. Some of these projects include, but not limited to, the completed R1 billion Cecilia Makiwane Hospital, a mega infrastructure project. Cecilia Makiwane Hospital is a large, provincial, government-funded hospital situated in the Mdantsane township of East London, Eastern Cape in South Africa. It is a tertiary teaching hospital and forms part of the East London Hospital Complex.



**Mega Infrastructure:** Cecilia Makiwane, one of the largest projects built post democratic dispensation. The project created in excess of 3 606 much needed jobs & provided skills development and training to the local communities.

The timeous commissioning of this project was critical to ensure that the spin-offs were immediately felt by the community of Mdantsane and local businesses, at large. More than 3 600 (three thousand six hundred) jobs were created in the project and a further 29 emerging Small Micro Medium Enterprises (SMMEs) contractors benefiting from the largest medical infrastructure development project in the Eastern Cape.

Furthermore, Coega, on behalf of the Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE), successfully completed a school infrastructure project at Bedford Primary School in the Eastern Cape (EC) for grade R to grade 7. The R60 million construction of Bedford Primary school was completed just a couple of months shy of the 24-month contract period. The project was welcomed with jubilation by scores of children at the small town of Bedford in the EC.

Another notable project is the delivery of a multimillion rand school at Ntabankulu Local Municipality. Learners of Madlalisa Senior Primary School (SPS), in 2017, commenced their school programme in a newly built school, thanks to the partnership between the ECDC and Coega. The project saw the installation of eight (8) new classrooms, computer lab, science laboratory, resource centre, multipurpose and nutrition centres. The project formed part of the successful completion of over twenty-one (21) Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI) projects by Coega.



**Nurturing the Future:** Madlalisa Senior Primary School in Ntabankulu Local Municipality opened its doors to hundreds of learners in 2017.

Other infrastructure projects were awarded to the CDC by the National Department of Basic Education (DBE) under the Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI) Programme of the DBE, to assist in the implementation of projects within the Province of KwaZulu-Natal. The programme was aimed at providing quality teaching facilities, and basic water and sanitation services.

Some of the KZN projects included the Department of Social Development (DSD) projects. The portfolio focused on the planning, execution, implementation and management of the DSD infrastructure projects, including the construction of Service Offices, Early Childhood Development Centres, and upgrading, renovation, repairs, maintenance and additions to existing buildings at identified sites throughout the province.



Dlamlenze Early Childhood Development Centre in the Amajuba District in KZN.

Some of these include Glengarry Primary School; Goodhome Secondary School; Hhoye Secondary School; Mbongeleni Primary School; Umsilinga Primary School; Ebuhlenibenkosi Secondary School; Westmead Secondary School; Khindi Jobe Primary School and Ukhanyakomsinga Special School, to mention but a few.



**Completed Project:** Kingsburgh Primary School in the KZN Province.

Following the introduction of the National Health Insurance (NHI) programme, spearheaded by the National Department of Health (NDoH), Coega has been at the forefront of implementing eight (8) successful projects in the Eastern Cape Province. The eight (8) completed projects are located in the OR Tambo NHI Pilot district of the province of the EC, valued at R289 million and have created in excess of 790 jobs.



**Model of Success:** H.E. President Cyril Ramaphosa joined by the Minister of Health, Dr. Zweli Mkhize, and Premier of the Eastern Cape, Oscar Mabuyane & EC Health MEC, Sindiswa Gomba at the opening of the NHI Lusikisiki Clinic in 2019.



**NHI Programme:** one of the eight successfully completed NHI Clinic's by Coega.

Given the aforementioned success, Coega has been asked by the other countries in the continent to help with the development of their infrastructure programmes. This is the first public entity, as far as we know, that has been asked by these countries for help, and they include Zimbabwe to develop Norton and Ecosoft SEZs in Harare; Central African Republic logistics base concession in Cameroon; and in Nigeria providing technical advisory services and co-development partnership.

These continental projects are a response from H.E. President Ramaphosa’s commitment to the growth of the continent where he pledged to promote the development and economic integration of the African Continent. “Our experience in the African continent confirms that the most effective way of addressing challenges of economic growth and social development is through cooperation across borders. This approach lies at the heart of the efforts to promote greater economic integration across the continent,” said President Cyril Ramaphosa at the Commonwealth Business Forum Banquet, 17 April 2018.

Moreover, the Honourable Premier of the Eastern Cape, Lubabalo Mabuyane, pledged to promote the development and economic integration of the African Continent. “We are very keen on contributing to a better Africa and the world. To this end, we look forward to embarking on Inter-Africa trade, which has been made possible by the signing of the Free Trade Agreement by African countries,” said EC Premier Lubabalo Oscar Mabuyane, at the SOPA, June 2019.

The Coega continental business is in line with the Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP) and Trade Invest Africa (TIA) initiative by **the dtic**. “TIA is meant to create a closer working relationship between SA Government and the private sector to take advantage of export and investment opportunities on the African Continent. It is mandated to contribute to increasing the levels of intra-Africa trade and facilitate for SA business the necessary services related to trade and investment on the continent” (**the dtic** website, 2017). “The Ford investment is also a boost for our efforts to recover growth and jobs in the economy following the impact of Covid-19 on livelihoods and to prepare South Africa for the opportunities of the AfCFTA,” said Honourable Minister, Ebrahim Patel.

### For more information, contact:

Dr. Ayanda Vilakazi (PhD)  
Unit Head of Marketing, Brand and Communications  
E-mail: ayanda.vilakazi@coega.co.za  
Telephone: 041 403 0464  
Fax: 041 403 0401

