

BAMBANANI MALL CIVILS PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION

The R21-million bulk earthworks and services project is almost finished, with the mall itself expected to be completed in April 2018.
By Martin Czernowalow



Renico Earthworks and Civils is currently wrapping up the bulk earthworks, services and roadworks for the new Bambanani Mall, in Diepsloot township.

Once completed, the shopping centre will be an 18 000m² single level semi-enclosed mall, located on the corner of the R114 and Apple Street, adjoining the N14 highway. The centre is being developed by Nthwese Developments and will serve the community of Diepsloot, which comprises 80 484 households and a population of 177 178, of which 70.7% are employed.

The mall will be anchored by a Shoprite store and will include retailers such as Pepkor Group, Mr Price Group, Cashbuild, Studio 88, Beaver Canoe, Rage, Fair Price Furniture, OK Furniture, OBC Chicken, Nizams, KFC and Romans Pizza.

Work on the project started in June this year, and Renico completed the bulk earthworks and services for the mall over a period of four months,

before handing over the site to the building contractor. The earthworks and civils portion of this project was valued at R21-million.

Johan van Greunen, senior site manager for Renico Earthworks and Civils, says the company expects to spend another two months doing layerworks and paving, but that will happen just before the mall opens, which is expected to be in April 2018.

According to Van Greunen, Renico had to clear and grub (remove all vegetation and unwanted material prior to site work and construction starting) across an area of 6.2ha. He notes that the project also necessitated the importing of 60 000m³ of earth material and the moving of 30 500m³ for cut and fill.

Van Greunen also notes that one of the challenges encountered during the project was the discovery of double the allowable amount of rock, with a total of 7 250m³ having had to be excavated

The Bambanani shopping centre will be an 18 000m² single level semi-enclosed mall, located in Diepsloot.



to reach a permissible total amount of 3 050m³.

During the project, Renico made use of labour from the surrounding communities, with the fencing for the site being erected by a local subcontractor. Local subcontractors were also employed to provide security for the site, as well as to install manholes and water pipes. Van Greunen says the hiring of plant and equipment was done from the local community. Renico also provided training in sewer and stormwater pipe laying to community members.

Beneficial development

At a sod-turning ceremony in June, the development manager of Nthwese Developments, Monique Pieterse, revealed that the centre would house Shoprite as the main anchor tenant, while the rest of the centre would be occupied by a

variety of national companies and small businesses.

Also speaking at the ceremony was ward 113 councillor Abraham Mabuke, who said the development would be beneficial to Diepsloot and a number of surrounding areas, such as wards 95, 96 and 113.

According to Pieterse, the Bambanani shopping centre would ultimately also provide a bulk infrastructure upgrade, as the current infrastructure provided is not sufficient for the area due to the exponential growth of the Diepsloot community.

Therefore, the shopping centre would embark on bulk infrastructure upgrades external to the site to improve the service delivery in the Diepsloot area, which is critical to the longevity of the community, she added.

Nthwese Developments also announced that candidates for long-term jobs would be sourced



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Renico's earthworks and civils project for Bamabanani shopping centre is nearly complete.



The Bambanani shopping centre will be situated adjacent to the N14 highway.



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from the local community. An estimated 1 200 jobs will be created, of which 70% will be for the initial construction period.

The company also stated that it supports sustainable economic development and job creation throughout its projects, with methods deployed that are in line with the Department of Public Works' strategies on BEE, job creation and poverty alleviation.

Nthwese Developments' managing director, Herbert Theledi, added that the ceremony marked the beginning of a new chapter and new possibilities. "We believe that this development will go a long way in changing the lives of many households," he said, referring to the creation of permanent jobs through the project.

MMC for community development, Councillor Chris Vondo, who also attended the ceremony, expressed excitement at the project, saying, "Bamabanani shopping centre will contribute towards improving the quality of life for this community." ■■



Renico provided training in sewer and stormwater pipe laying to members from local communities.