

Harrismith traffic circle eases traffic congestion



For a long time, traffic congestion at the intersection of N5 national road and Mckechnie Street in Harrismith has been a major concern. However, with the realignment of the intersection through the construction of a traffic circle adjacent to the traffic lights on N5, life has become easy for motorists. About 99 percent of physical work has been completed on the project, which was started in March last year, and traffic congestion is now a thing of the past.

This week, Maluti-a-Phofung Municipal Manager, Mr Stephen Kau, visited the area and was all smiles with the work that has already been done in ensuring that entrance and exit to Harrismith becomes easier at the intersection of Mckechnie Street and N5 road.

“This intersection has been experiencing heavy traffic load with trucks also using the inlands for delivery purposes or to pass through hence for it to be realigned. The trucks travelling between Durban and other parts of the country use this road and often use it as a resting spot for drivers as well.

“Now, to the town’s advantage, the realignment of this intersection will not only eradicate traffic slow down but the community has been invited to contribute to the look of the circle. The circle will be used for greening purposes in order to preserve the environment. The municipality prides itself in such projects where not only the stakeholders benefit but the community at large,” said Kau.

The Municipal Manager stressed that the municipality will have to punish truck drivers, who do not drive according to the traffic rules and damage the circle. “We will make sure that we maximize the visibility of our traffic officers.”

According to the Project Manager, Werner Venter, the project also played a crucial in the creation of jobs, albeit temporary. He said about R1,5 million was spent on local labour.

Now that the traffic can flow with ease, what is left is the design of the inner part of the circle.