

NEW COMMERCIAL COMPLEX FOR UMHLATHUZE

By Vusi Mthalane
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Land near the N2/John Ross Parkway intersection earmarked for development later this year.

UMHLATHUZIANS can look forward to added shopping convenience as a new development is earmarked to start later this year near Empangeni.

Construction of the John Ross Eco Junction is expected to start on the 195 000m² Liberty Group owned site off the N2 John Ross Parkway on 1 October.

Liberty's MD for property development, Giles Pendleton, said that the uMhlathuze area has been identified by local and provincial government as a 'high-potential development area'.

"We are looking to create facilities and space for businesses that want to expand their operations, as well as for new businesses that are not currently operating in the area," said Pendleton.

He said the development would contribute ‘significantly’ to employment opportunities in the area.
With its value estimated at R1billion once all the sites have been filled, John Ross Eco Junction will have space to include a hospital and a hotel, and Pendleton says there are over 30 sites that will be available for occupation.
Pendleton said the uMhlathuze node is experiencing high growth rates with a GDP of R3.7billion and a growth rate of 7% per annum.
“The uMhlathuze node contributes 7.6% to the GDP of KwaZulu-Natal and the rate at which the local economy is growing is resulting in an increased demand for quality premises for businesses to operate from,” said Pendleton.
He said this growth is driven by Transnet’s planned infrastructure spend of around R33billion over the next seven years in the uMhlathuze area.

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