

Local businesses will probably benefit from the Glenmore township development on the Fish River, Cape Midlands Administration Board (CMAB) project engineer for the scheme, Mr. W.F. Matherbe, told members of the Grahamstown Chamber of Commerce last week.

Not only would Grahamstown offer shopping facilities for workers and new residents of the township over the next few years, until businesses there were established, but local firms would also be able to tender to supply building and other materials.

Eventually the CMAB hoped Glenmore would be independent, commercially speaking, and not depend on Grahamstown for shopping facilities, he said.

Work starts in two weeks on a temporary 500-house village to house workers on the project.

The scheme provides for permanent housing for 5 000 families in a township fully-serviced with running water, water-borne sewerage disposal and electricity. The total cost will be well over R26-million.

The first phase of the project, which starts next year, is one wing of the scheme which will house 1 000 families and will cost about R7.2-million. This includes the cost of roads, drainage, water supply, electricity and houses. The latter will cost about R2.5 million, according to Mr. Matherbe.

The CMAB has asked the Provincial Administration to list providing a tar road to Glenmore from Grahamstown as a priority project, but there has been no

Provincial budget allocation for it yet.

Test boreholes are being sunk to see if there will be enough underground water.

Alternatively a dam will be constructed.

Escom will provide electricity which will be supplied to the whole town. Each permanent house being built will be fitted with conduit piping to take electrical wiring and it will be up to the individual tenants to decide whether or not they want electricity, said Mr. Matherbe.

All main roads and bus routes will be tarred, and if enough money is left over the steel or roads will also receive tarring attention in case of erosion problems. All other roads will be shaped and gravelled.

Every house will have running water and its own flush toilet. The CMAB is investigating various building materials for the houses which will probably be built according to a basic pattern with three rooms, a kitchen, an indoor shower and flush toilet. In later phases other types of housing such as flats or cluster housing may be erected. There will also be an area in the township where wealthier residents will be able to buy land and build their own houses.

He stressed that the residents for Glenmore would come from various towns and that most would be people who are presently squatters or unemployed.

Glenmore, he said, would be a "model town".

"We want to build houses which will be attractive enough to induce people to willingly leave their squatter's shacks to live there".

Of the approximately 1 000 hectare the town will cover, about 700 will be used for housing and amenities and about 200 for agricultural purposes.

Employment would be offered by the extensive construction and development work involved with the township initially, a proposed irrigation scheme and probably agriculture-orientated industries such as canning. Further work opportunities would be generated by the town administration and its amenities including schools and businesses.

Construction would be tarred out in such a way as to offer maximum employment to local residents, he said.

Glenmore to  
boost local  
businesses

1/9/78