



16 November 2023

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF LEPHALALE SOLAR PROJECT (LSP)

Diversified mining and renewable energy solutions company, Exxaro Resources, alongside its wholly owned subsidiary, Cennergi, unveiled the Lephalale Solar Project (LSP) through a sod-turning ceremony conducted by Limpopo Premier, Chupa Stan Mathabatha, Limpopo MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Rodgers Monama, Waterberg District Municipality Mayor, Cllr Morris Mataboge, Lephalale Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr Aaron Mokgetle, Exxaro Management, Local Traditional Authority representatives and other stakeholders on 16 November 2023.

The project which is located in the Waterberg District of South Africa's Limpopo Province in Lephalale, signifies the start of Exxaro's self-generation and organic growth aspiration, as part of implementing their Sustainable Growth and Impact strategy.

The project is a behind-the-meter solar PV plant of utility-scale. The sod-turning event is the ceremonial opening of the project. Construction has already commenced, with the project set to be completed during Q1 2025.

The LSP project is a significant milestone for Exxaro in its contribution towards enhanced energy security of the Grootegeluk Mine and Lephalale community, decarbonisation of its operations, energy cost savings, and South Africa's energy transition pathway.

Mr Leon Groenewald, Managing Director of Energy at Exxaro, stated, "Our mission goes beyond profit; we also aim to be stewards of the environment in which we operate. We are actively engaging with the local community, and during the peak of construction, we will employ between 300 to 400 individuals, with a significant emphasis on sourcing local talent. We will contribute towards economic growth within this region." As a company whose vision is to invest in resources powering a clean world, the ~R1.56 bn investment will create a solar facility with an installed capacity of 68 MW, that will annually generate 176 Gigawatt hours of clean energy, designed to reduce emissions for 25 years from commissioning.

The project covers a 236-hectare development envelope approximately 25 km west of Lephalale in Limpopo. The site is 2 km from Marapong and around 4 km from Eskom's Matimba power station.

Exxaro's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Nombasa, concluded, "We aim to grow from the exceptional business we have built over the past 17 years. Together, we can power possibility as we take advantage of the abundant renewable resources of our country, in the form of sunlight, wind and strategic minerals, and build shared prosperity and



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sustainable development because we know that there is a better place to be tomorrow, than where we are today.”

Limpopo Premier, Mr Chupu Stanley Mathabatha remarked that the Province welcomes the commitment made by Exxaro through the Lephalale Solar Project, more specifically in terms of revenue percentage which will be contributed to the socio-economic upliftment of the local communities as part of its corporate social responsibility.

We have been following the developments which have today led to this successful sod turning, from the signing of Memorandum to develop wind farms in 2009; to the bidding of Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme; until Cennergi become a full subsidiary of Exxaro which today we are here with you witnessing the mission fulfilled. “This is the road we have traversed together on the lane of Private Public Partnership in a quest to drive economic growth, create sustainable socio-economic development and create much needed jobs through cleaner and greener renewable energy,” concluded Premier Mathabatha.

The Local Mayor, Cllr Aaron Mokgetle, said this historic milestone will contribute immensely towards job creation within the local communities and that it is a step in the right direction to addressing the electricity challenges the country is facing currently.

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Issued by Lephalale Local Municipality Communication Unit