

Stadium lighting tender sparks pride

Kaizer Sebothelo Stadium in Botshabelo lights up an entire community

SOUTH Africa is filled with success stories that have arisen out of a challenging past, such as the development of the Botshabelo community, 45km east of Bloemfontein.

Its meaning, a place of refuge, resonated deeply among its residents when it was established. Today, it is a hive of activity, with established businesses and has developed into a close-knit community with a special pride, having produced some of our country's finest football stars.

Combining the need for housing and land development with the love of the beautiful game, a stadium fit to host any national side – Kaizer Sebothelo Stadium – was built as a multi-use venue but mainly to host football matches. Playing host to Botshabelo Football Club and Tower United FC, this 20 000-seater stadium has become the pride of the community.

Development of property in these regions is critical for the long-term sustainability of communities, says Kurt Maritz of Maritz Electrical, the contractor responsible for the recent upgrade of the lighting system in the stadium. Maintaining key developments built for the enjoyment of the

community play a vital role in positive sentiment and that this need not come at a high cost.

Maritz Electrical replaced the existing, outdated lighting, as their output intensity was too low to cater for high definition camera equipment. Mangaung Municipality's tender stipulated that the lighting needed an upgrade to HD quality using a local lighting brand.

"We tendered as requested,

'The direct benefit could be passed on to the community'

and provided an alternative lighting solution using a Musco system," says Maritz. "This system offered a substantial cost saving of close to R3 million for the same result, with a 10-year warranty, resulting in further savings for the client. Naturally the direct benefit could be passed on to the community to fund further development and the quote was accepted."

Musco 1 500W metal halide luminaires were installed for

field lighting and LED luminaires for emergency lighting. The stadium's generator was upgraded to 110 KVA. Using any other system would have required the upgrade of the power supply, but this was not necessary as the Musco system uses about 25 percent less power than conventional systems.

"Some challenges threatened the installation process," says Maritz. "At the time a union strike disrupted progress for more than a month resulting in theft of cables. Notwithstanding this, the project directly uplifted the socio-economic environment as we used local labour, plant hire and material suppliers. Our permanent staff from our Cape Town head office stayed at a local guest house, adding a little to the tourism of the region too.

"Kaizer Sebothelo Stadium is now equipped to allow for HD television broadcasting, and proudly stands as a true success story of Botshabelo and proves that the development of land and facilities play an enormous role in the sustainability of the country's socio-economic climate," says Maritz.

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LIT UP: With its new lighting system, Kaizer Sebothelo Stadium in Botshabelo is now equipped for HD television broadcasting.