

Katse Gate Shaft and Polihali connecting tunnel breakthrough

March and April marked a defining period for the Polihali Transfer Tunnel contract, with two major construction milestones successfully achieved—each underscoring technical excellence, disciplined execution, and an unwavering commitment to safety.

On 31 March, the project reached a critical point with the final breakthrough blast of the 106-metre-deep Katse Gate Shaft. Excavated entirely under underground conditions, this phase of work was both technically demanding and high-risk. Its completion—without a single incident—stands as a remarkable achievement and a clear reflection of the team’s meticulous planning, operational discipline, and professionalism.

Building on this momentum, the team delivered another significant milestone just ahead of the Easter break with the successful breakthrough of the Polihali Connecting Tunnel. This achievement marks the completion of all drill-and-blast excavation works on the Polihali side of the transfer tunnel. The excavation of the 1,322-metre-long tunnel is a testament to sustained effort, technical capability, and a deeply embedded culture of safety.

These milestones not only advance the project in line with its construction programme, but also set a strong foundation for the phase—leading up to the launch of Leboborane-la-Manyokola-Thita.

Congratulations to the Polihali Transfer Tunnel teams at both Katse and Polihali for delivering these outstanding achievements. Their dedication continues to drive the project forward and exemplifies excellence in execution.

