**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:**

**QUESTION NUMBER: 2080**

**Mr I M Ollis (DA) to ask the Minister of Transport:**

(a) On what date will the construction on the new rail extension for Metrorail linking Motherwell and Coega with the Nelson Mandela Metro CBD commence, (b) what is the anticipated date of completion for the extension and (c) on what date is the service anticipated to begin running?

**NW2234E**

**REPLY:**

1. The detail design and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) phase is currently underway and it is anticipated that it will be completed by June 2019. The Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality will be updating their transport demand model and Integrated Transport Plan for the City. A final decision on preliminary timeframes for construction will be taken once this phase is completed.

Should it be decided to proceed, PRASA will be able to issue the tender for construction in the latter half of 2020 once land acquisition matters have been finalised. Construction could therefore possibly commence during the latter half 2021.

1. A two-year construction programme is envisaged. Based on above timeframe, the construction can be completed towards the end of 2023.
2. Operations could commence early in 2024 once testing and commissioning has been completed.