

DEVELOPMENT

Cradle City to form new node around Lanseria

A whole new city could soon be emerging in the vicinity of Lanseria Airport in Gauteng. Plans are afoot by development company Amari Land to develop the 912ha area surrounding the airport into a planned, sustainable, mixed use development for the 21st century. If successful, the development – known as Cradle City – will create a large new node in Gauteng.

Amari Land was founded in early 2007 by international property developer Preston Haskell, mining entrepreneur Mike Nunn and planning specialist André van Wyk, who is also MD of the company. The Amari team brings together professionals with African and international expertise in a variety of property disciplines. The Amari Group focuses on identifying high economic growth regions in sub-Saharan Africa and creating developments around existing economic growth areas. One of its current projects is the 380ha Luano City mixed use development in Lubumbashi in the DRC.

The Cradle City development area falls within the urban edge at the end of the north west growth corridor and is bounded by the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage site, Monaghan Farm, Blair Atholl and parts of the airport. Access will be via the R511/Malibongwe Drive, which will be upgraded all the way from Cosmo City to the airport, and the N14 highway.

The team feels that the timing is perfect for a development such as this. Lanseria is Gauteng's second busiest airport and Gauteng itself is currently Africa's fastest growing regional economy, generating more than 10% of the continent's gross domestic product.

The vision for Cradle City is to create a carefully planned mixed use urban environment which offers people opportunities to live, work, play and travel in an integrated and sustainable development. The importance of sustainability and green principles is being emphasised. At a recent launch, members of the Amari team stated that the sustainability imperative demands more compact urban land forms now, and that urban planners need to respond to issues such as urban sprawl, environmental degradation and the addressing of social inequalities in today's schemes. Cradle City offers an opportunity to conceptualise and create a planned, sustainable, mixed use node in line with international standards in a fast growing area.

