

DG visits rural municipalities in northern KZN

A special task team has been set up to assist in implementing the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) projects in the Uthungulu District Municipality, North of Kwazulu–Natal (KZN). It was set up after Public Works Director-General (DG), Mr Mziwonke Dlabantu and his delegation visited the area.

Mr Dlabantu was accompanied to the area by the Deputy Director-General (DDG): Regional co-ordination Mr Butcher Matutle, EPWP Operations Chief Director, Ms Kelebogile Setebelo and the Acting Durban Regional Manager, Mr Sduduzo Simelane. Also in attendance from the Durban Regional Office were Director for projects, Mr Thuthuka Mbhele and KZN Independent Development Trust (IDT) Provincial Head, Ms Nonhlanhla Khumalo.

The DG's visit to the area which is 80% rural was in an effort to forge good working relations between the District Municipality and the Department of Public Works. The municipality is home to six local municipalities, which are Umhlathuze, Nkandla, Ntambanana, KwaMbonambi, Umlalazi, Mrhonjaneni and is also home to more than a million residents, a large number of them unemployed.

Mr Dlabantu met with various stakeholders within the district, focusing on how the EPWP can be spread across the District, in a bid to address the high rates of unemployment and poverty in the region.

The District Municipal Manager, Mr Mdu Nkosi applauded the DG's efforts and urged that there be continued good relations with the National Department of Public Works through EPWP, for the benefit of the people.

DG Dlabantu also urged the municipality to utilise all the EPWP sectors and further advised it to put more effort to agricultural programmes, as the district is mainly rural and has plenty of vacant land.

Uthungulu District Deputy Mayor, Mr Thulani Mashaba thanked the DG for visiting their municipality and for re-introducing some of the EPWP programmes.

The DG and his delegation also visited a number of projects within the district, including the Mbongolwane De-bushing Community Project.