

DPW meets critical stakeholders to discuss future sustainability of SA's small harbours

29 August 2015

The Department of Public Works (DPW), through its Small Harbours Unit met with key stakeholders on small harbour infrastructure development to ensure the future sustainability of South Africa's (SAs) small harbours.

The gathering, held at the Dome in the DPW's Cape Town Regional Office on 29 August 2015, was a joint initiative between the Department of Public Works, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), as well as the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF).

DPW Director-General Mr Mziwonke Dlabantu and his two counterparts from the DEA Ms Nosipho Ngcaba and from the DAFF Professor Edith Vries delivered their presentations to the meeting which brought together business leaders in the fishing industry from and around the city of Cape Town.

In his presentation, the DG quoted Minister TW Nxesi in his 2015 Budget Vote Speech where he stated that in support of Operation Phakisa, the Department of Public Works established the Small Harbours Unit to facilitate the development and modernisation of small harbours. He said one of the objectives of the unit was to take control of and develop small proclaimed harbours as well as harbours that are not yet proclaimed. The DG said this had implications for the better utilisation of state resources to promote economic development and job creation.

Operation Phakisa is an initiative of the South African Government designed to fast track the implementation of solutions on critical delivery issues highlighted in the National Development Plan (NDP).

It also came out during the gathering that the Property Management Trading Entity (PMTE), as the State's infrastructure development organ, would play a pivotal role in the development and modernisation of small harbours in stimulating the South African maritime economy.

Mr Dlabantu also revealed that the DPW and DAFF identified critical projects to be undertaken during 2015/16, within 13 proclaimed harbours in the Western Cape. Among others, the identified projects include the repairs and upgrade of slipways, shore crane replacements, dredging of harbour basins, removal of sunken vessels, security installation and operations; and infrastructure repairs.

The DG ended his presentation by urging the business leaders in the private sector to partner with the Government to ensure that the set objectives regarding small harbours are met.

The meeting wrapped up with a networking session officiated by Mr Dlabantu.