

## **Saldanha Bay Harbour development project progresses well with greater benefit in store for the community**

**6 April 2021**

The Small Harbours Programme has created a total of 611 jobs and empowered local Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (MMMEs) to the value of over R61 million with the bulk of the SMMEs being a Level 1/2 BBBEE Level, at over 10 harbours that include Gansbaai, St Helena Bay and Saldanha Bay, among others. This is according to Public Works and Infrastructure Minister Patricia De Lille.

The Minister along with the Deputy Minister, Noxolo Kiviet and Dr Kgosientsho Ramokgopa, head of infrastructure investment in the Presidency, visited one of the Department's Small Harbours Repairs and Maintenance projects at the Saldanha Bay Harbour in the Western Cape. They inspected the work at the Saldanha Bay harbour and engaged the contractors and some of the local workers who have already been working on the project.

The Small Harbours Programme has also been gazetted as a Strategic Integrated Project (SIP) as part of the Infrastructure Investment Plan approved by Cabinet in May 2020.

Minister De Lille says projects such as this one have been gazetted in terms of the Infrastructure Development Act to ensure expedited implementation which in turn also assists in growing investor confidence and bringing the benefits to local communities much quicker.

She says work is currently being executed in the following Proclaimed fishing Harbours (PFHs); Kalk Bay, Gordons Bay, Hermanus, Gansbaai, Struisbaai, Arniston, Lamberts Bay, Laaiplek, St Helena Bay, Saldanha Bay, Pepper Bay, Hout Bay and Stilbaai.

"To date the programme in its entirety has created a total of 611 jobs and empowered local SMMEs to the value of over R61 million with the bulk of the SMMEs being a Level 1/2 BBBEE Level at all the harbours mentioned above," says Minister De Lille.

The programme identified the following scope of work in each of the 13 PFHs where it was applicable:

Removal of sunken vessels, dredging of the harbour basins, repairs to slipways, shore crane replacements, security Infrastructure upgrades, civil Infrastructure upgrades and electrical infrastructure upgrades.

The removal of sunken vessels programme has been completed with a total of 29 vessels removed at various harbours, 15 of those vessels were removed at the Hout Bay Harbour.

DPWI grasped at the opportunity at the Hout Bay harbour removal of sunken vessels project which allowed 9 informal divers (many which were former poachers) including 1 woman being trained as Class 3 Commercial Divers to assist with the work for the Hout Bay Harbour removal of sunken vessels project. The removal of sunken vessels project in Hout Bay alone created a total of 110 jobs and empowered 11 SMMEs to the value of approximately R4,5 million.

Dredging has been completed at Struisbaai, Gansbaai, Gordons Bay and Hout Bay. Dredging is in the final stages at Lamberts Bay and St Helena Bay Harbours respectively.

The repairs to slipways and shore crane replacements were packaged as one contract and have been completed at all of the harbours with the exception of Saldanha Bay slipway which is currently underway.

The primary purpose of the programme is to bring the harbours to a greater operational efficiency to assist the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) to carry out their mandate effectively with the enabling infrastructure provided by DPWI.