



# public works & infrastructure

Department:  
Public Works and Infrastructure  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## MINISTER SIHLE ZIKALALA PART OF MINISTERS LEADING THE EFFORTS TO GET THE CENTRAL RAILWAY LINE IN LANGA AND PHILIPPI IN THE WESTERN CAPE BACK INTO FULL OPERATION

The Ministers of Human Settlements, Transport and Public Works and Infrastructure on 11 September 2023 led efforts to recover the central railway line in Langa and Philippi in the Western Cape.

The railway line is the backbone of the transportation system and rail network in the Western Cape. It has been illegally occupied.

Ministers are leading the efforts to get the central line back into full operation under the banner of Operation Bhekela.

The programme involves relocation and rehousing of people in Langa and Philippi.

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure is supporting on land related matters.

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### THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER IS ALSO SA'S NATIONAL ALBINISM AWARENESS MONTH

September is South Africa's National Albinism Awareness Month. This month is dedicated to Persons with albinism, to highlight their pride, challenges and finding solutions. During this month all endeavours should be channelled towards the provision of information on albinism to create awareness and education about the disability.

Albinism is a rare genetic condition that reduces the amount of melanin pigment formed in the skin, hair or eyes and occurs in all racial and ethnic groups throughout the world. People with albinism continue to face an uphill struggle to attain a life with dignity and equality and to fight against injustice and discrimination. We have the opportunity to pause, reflect and remember that not all persons are treated equally, and that many persons with albinism continue to suffer human rights abuses and violations, often invisibly and in silence.



### GROUNDWORK LAID TO FAST-TRACK IMPLEMENTATION OF BRIDGES

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) has laid groundwork for the fast-tracked programme, to rollout 17 bridges in the Eastern Cape, in the current financial year. The technical team from DPWI, the National Department of Transport and the Eastern Cape recently met to discuss the fast-tracked programme that will see 9 bridges being rolled out by the end of December 2023 and a further 8 bridges being implemented before 31 March 2024. The meeting was convened following engagements between Minister Sihle Zikalala, the Eastern Cape Transport MEC Xolile Nqatha and the Eastern Cape Public Works and Infrastructure MEC Ntombovuyo Nkopane, on the rollout of the Welisizwe Rural Bridges Programme.

The DPWI team was led by Acting Deputy Director-General Programme Management Office Mr Sifiso Mdakane and the Eastern Cape Provincial Team was led by Acting Deputy Director-General: Transport and Infrastructure Zanemvula Ngovela. Present at the meeting were representatives from the National Department of Transport, Themba Mosobela (National Welisizwe Coordinator), Pat Zingeni (EC Provincial Infrastructure Steering Committee Convenor) and John Davies from the Eastern Cape Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.



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