



public works & infrastructure

Department:
Public Works and Infrastructure
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MINISTER ZIKALALA SAYS DIGNITY MUST BE RESTORED TO THE FOREST VILLAGES

Article By Andile Xulu
Pictures By Siphamandla Nyembe and Thokozani Ngema



DPWI Minister Sihle Zikalala flanked by *the Mayor of Knysna Municipality Cllr. Aubrey Tsengwa and *DPWI Deputy Director-General (DDG) Programme Management Office (PMO) Ms Luyanda Kafile

Forest villages are settlements that were established around forest plantations when the land was allocated to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DPPE) for plantation purposes, to allow plantation workers to be closer to the working sites.

The forest village communities occupy remote government land under the custodianship of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI). These communities have limited basic services such as water, clinics, schools, road infrastructure, recreational facilities and economic activities. Upon the closure of the plantations, the communities were left with no access to employment opportunities.

On 16 March 2024, Public Works and Infrastructure Minister Sihle Zikalala, together with officials from affected government Departments and entities, had a discussion with the forest village communities in George, Western Cape in a bid to find a permanent solution to the plight of these communities.

The engagement addressed the lack of service delivery to the forest villagers who are experiencing issues like a lack of Bulk Infrastructure Services and housing conditions which are dilapidated. Another challenge faced by the communities is that there was no formal township established and properties could not be transferred to occupants.

In his keynote address, Minister Zikalala stated that the Department had short and long term goals for forest villages. "Our long term goal is to ensure that all houses are transferred to the beneficiaries," he said.



DPWI Cape Town Regional Manager (RM) Phucuka Penxa

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NSG MASTERCLASS DISCUSSES INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PLANNING

By Siphamandla Nyembe and Thokozani Ngema

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) Honourable Minister Sihle Zikalala delivered his opening remarks at the National School of Government (NSG) Masterclass on Sunday, 17 March in Stellenbosch.

The Masterclass moderated by NSG Principal Prof. Busani Ngcaweni, formed part of Day 1 of the Sustainable Infrastructure Development Symposium South Africa 2024 #SIDSSA24 currently underway at Century City Conference Centre in Cape Town, South Africa until 19 March 2024.

The Masterclass explored themes including infrastructure investment planning, building state capacity, as well as closing the infrastructure investment gap.



NSG Principal Prof. Busani Ngcaweni

