



# public works & infrastructure

Department:  
Public Works and Infrastructure  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## OPERATION SIYAHLOLA TOUCHDOWN IN KING CETSHWAYO DISTRICT

Article By Andile Xulu  
Pictures By Shudufhadzo Mudau



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, (DPWI) Minister Sihle Zikalala, together with the KwaZulu-Natal Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs MEC, Bongsi Sithole-Moloi, have led a District Development Model (DDM) Ministerial outreach, conducting an oversight visit to evaluate the progress of the Port of Richards Bay on KwaZulu-Natal north coast, on major infrastructure projects and the stability of municipalities in the aftermath of recent incidents in King Cetshwayo District, KwaZulu-Natal.

The oversight visit comes at a pivotal time following President Cyril Ramaphosa's announcement of the roadmap to turnaround the Port and to get the DDM to perform optimally. Engalangala Primary School in Esikhawini and Khandisa Clinic in Empangeni were amongst the areas that were visited as part of Operation Siyahlola (We Inspect).

A stakeholder engagement session that included District Deputy Mayor Sikhumbuzo Dlamini, Political principals, NGO's, traditional leaders and organised civil society groups was also held. During the engagement between DDM Champions and Stakeholders, Minister Zikalala requested the provincial government to make South Africa a better nation. "To make South Africa a better country let us prioritise service delivery to communities," said Minister Zikalala. Furthermore, in light of a recent incident in one of the municipalities within the King Cetshwayo District, Minister Zikalala also engaged with local officials and community stakeholders to ascertain the challenges faced and provide support for effective governance and service delivery.



## DEPUTY MINISTER BERNICE SWARTS CHARTS A ROADMAP FOR ALIGNMENT AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN DPWI AND BUILT INDUSTRY PROFESSIONAL COUNCILS

By Lunga Mahlangu

DPWI Deputy Minister Bernice Swarts, engaged the built industry Professional Councils in a meeting on 12 April 2024 in Kempton Park, Gauteng. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the third quarter performance in line with their Key Performance Areas (KPA).

Deputy Minister Swarts highlighted that she observed that some of the negative issues impacting the industry include governance of public entities, professional registration of candidates and transformation. Furthermore, Deputy Minister ventilated her concern regarding bottlenecks hampering the progress of transforming young professionals into fully fledged registered professionals. She questioned the rationale of students studying for five (5) years and then being subjected to undergo seven (7) years of practical experience before they qualify as professionals. She lamented that the long registration process is a recipe for disaster for young people as they tend to become depressed and suicidal because they are despondent.

The Deputy Minister challenged public entities and professional councils to refrain from focusing on extravagant workshops and indabas while the majority of young people are struggling to obtain professional registration. She affirmed that for entities to be assessed and regarded as efficient, they should ensure that their performance scorecards speak to issues of professional registration and transformation. One of the thorny issues was that it takes a black student up to 5 to 7 years to be registered professional while in contrast, it takes 3 to 5 years for white students to be registered as registered professionals.

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24 April 2024

**20 YEARS OF EPWP**

**President Cyril Ramaphosa** will unveil a plan to create **five million** Expanded Public Works Programme **work opportunities**.

Time: 09:00  
Place: Buffalo City Stadium, 17 Recreation Road, Arcadia, East London

