



public works & infrastructure

Department:
Public Works and Infrastructure
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Wednesday, 31 January 2024



A COMMUNITY MEMBER IN UMKHAMBATHINI WANTS THE JOY HE FEELS DUE TO THE DELIVERY OF BRIDGES IN HIS AREA TO BE FELT BY OTHERS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY



His Excellency President **Cyril Ramaphosa** flanked by *DPWI Minister Mr **Sihle Zikalala** - MP, *DPWI Deputy Minister Ms **Bernice Swarts** - MP, *Premier of KwaZulu-Natal Mrs **Nomusa Dube-Ncube** and SANDF Chief, General **Rudzani Maphwanya**

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Pictures By The GCIS, **Andile Xulu**, **Hope Motitimi**, **Shudufhadzo Mudau** & **Maanea Maselesele**

Community members in uMkhambathini and surrounding areas, in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands will no longer need to cross dangerous rivers in order to reach their destinations, thanks to government's *Welisizwe* bridges. President Cyril Ramaphosa led the launch of the *Welisizwe* Rural Bridges initiative in KZN on 31 January 2024 by handing over one of the completed bridges to the communities of Mkhambathini Local Municipality.

The initiative between the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI), the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and provincial departments of Transport, aims to construct 96 bridges during the 2023/24 financial

year, as outlined in the 2023 State of the Nation Address.

One of the uMkhambathini residents **Thinabantu Sithole** has shared his joy with *WorxDaily* saying the bridges will help lessen accidents. He added that his wish is for government to continue to bring services to communities all over the country, especially by providing safe bridges and creating job opportunities.

Delivering the keynote address during the event, DPWI Minister **Sihle Zikalala** highlighted that government will do whatever it takes for South African citizens to have a better life. "Let us be more dedicated and committed and bring services to communities, we have started with the *Welisizwe* bridges handover, there's a lot that needs to be completed," said the Minister.



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WELISIZWE BRIDGES

The **Welisizwe Rural Bridges Programme** creates job opportunities and drives back poverty in rural areas. This means a total of **6 270 job opportunities** that are created each financial year.

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