



## EPWP PHASE V IS THE FLAGSHIP THAT WILL HELP SA REALISE KEY PRIORITIES OF THE GNU

Article by Nolwazi Ndhlovu, pictures by Maanea Maselesele



"There is no doubt that the Phase V of the Expanded Public Works Programme is the flagship that that will go far in helping our nation address the three key priorities of the Government of National Unity" says Deputy Minister Sihle Zikalala.

The Deputy Minister was speaking at a site visit in Tzaneen, where he led a delegation on a visit, to assess the progress being made on the Zangoma/Mariveni paving project. This year, on the 18th of July, in Parliament, President Cyril Ramaphosa outlined the three key priorities of the Government of National Unity (GNU) as (1) to drive inclusive growth and job creation, (2) to reduce poverty and tackle the high cost of living, and (3) to build a capable, ethical and developmental state.

When addressing the media, Deputy Minister said that the first quarter report of the EPWP Phase V shows that the programme has created 671 training opportunities and 341 331 work opportunities across the country. Furthermore, the programme is continuously pursuing methods to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness towards service delivery. The Deputy Minister said amid high unemployment rates, rising poverty levels, inadequate delivery of infrastructure projects, Government is committed to serve the people of this country to live up to its constitutional mandate of providing basic services to its citizens.

The Zangoma/Mariveni paving project that is currently on phase 2 of implementation, is implemented by the Tzaneen Local Municipality and is a large significant element of EPWP. It has and continues to help address the issues of high unemployment and deep poverty in this community by providing training and work opportunities, as well as creating social infrastructure services.

The upgrade of this road spans over 6 kilometers extending from R 3677 Junction (Zangoma Village Junction) to D 5011 intersection (Nkowankowa-Letsitele Road). "Today's representation from all spheres of government is an indication of improved coordination by all implementers and stakeholders of the EPWP. This is what the Programme stands for and we will continue to strengthen this partnership for an efficient and effective delivery of quality basic services to communities," said Zikalala.

