



public works & infrastructure

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Minister Dean Macpherson Launches EPWP Listening Tour to Reform and Empower Communities in Bethelsdorp

Article by Maanea Maselesele and pictures by Maanea Maselesele and Khanyisa Moagi

This marks an important milestone for the Department of Public Works & Infrastructure as Minister Dean Macpherson launched the first Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Listening Tour in Bethelsdorp, Gqeberha, Eastern Cape.

On his arrival, the Minister was warmly welcomed by the Indoni Cultural group from W.B Tshome Primary School. Minister Macpherson was joined by the Executive Mayor of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality, Gary van Niekerk, Ward Councillor Jonny Arendse, and Independent Development Trust's (IDT) Portfolio Manager for Social Development Programmes, Pheli Mashele.

They interacted with EPWP participants and community members who were given an opportunity to share their experiences regarding EPWP in a bid to improve and reform the programme.

"It is essential as government that we do not simply change programmes, without listening to communities about the issues they are experiencing," said MacPherson.

"Over the years, EPWP has been plagued by allegations of patronage, corruption and jobs-for-political party members because of the ways in which EPWP work opportunities are allocated. The best way we can overcome corruption is through transparency in how people are recruited and given an opportunity in the programme," added Minister MacPherson.

Responding to questions regarding unfair recruitment processes, Minister Macpherson encouraged participants to report any form of corruption within the programme.

"EPWP remains an important tool to instil hope, provide work, and bring dignity and skills development to communities in need. It also plays a crucial role in addressing service delivery challenges," the Minister emphasised.



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