



# public works & infrastructure

Department:  
Public Works and Infrastructure  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## NDWEDWE STEPS INTO THE FUTURE AS DPWI BRINGS TRAINING AS A PATHWAY FOR OPPORTUNITY

**Article by Tseke Masemola, Pictures by Mahlogonolo Makwela**

On 25 September 2025, the Deputy Minister of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI), Sihle Zikalala, led a Skills Development Outreach Programme, at the Johnny Makhathini Community Hall in Ndwedwe, KwaZulu-Natal. The programme forms part of DPWI's broader commitment to strengthening communities, creating sustainable livelihoods, and driving national priorities, under the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030.

The event brought together learners, community members, traditional leaders, and representatives from all spheres of government, alongside key institutions such as SETA, UFS, UJ, key client departments such as the SAPS, and private sector stakeholders.

The discussions focused on empowering Grade 10 and 11 learners, introducing bursary opportunities, and encouraging young people to align their studies with South Africa's economic needs. “The doors of learning and culture shall be opened,” declared Zikalala.

Speakers spoke on the various opportunities offered across the construction, property management and facility management fields. They called for greater representation of women in the built environment, a sector still dominated by men. They further stressed the importance of mathematics and science at school level, emphasising that even those from underprivileged backgrounds can excel through discipline, determination, and access to the right opportunities.

The DPWI delegation included the CEO of CIDB Bongani Dladla, Head of PMTE Siza Sibande, Bloemfontein Regional Manager Thobile Zulu, Johannesburg Acting Regional Manager Jabulile Mabaso, as well as other supporting government officials. This reinforced government's ongoing commitment to infrastructure-led development and youth empowerment. Their message was clear, skills development is not only about jobs but also about dignity, independence, and sustainable growth.

For South Africa's future to be built brick by brick, the Department is ensuring no walls crumble by equipping communities like Ndwedwe with skills that transform unemployment into opportunities, and opportunities into careers.



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EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME

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