



public works & infrastructure

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JOY AND HOPE FOR RURAL COMMUNITY IN THE EASTERN CAPE



Article by Andile Xulu, Pictures by Mahlogonolo Makwela & Shudufhadzo Mudau

In a decisive move to bring life-changing services to rural communities, Public Works and Infrastructure Deputy Minister, Sihle Zikalala, alongside the Mayor of Port St. Johns Local Municipality, Cebisa Mazuza, the Mayor of Ingquza Hill Local Municipality, Prudence Pepping, and the Provincial MEC for Transport, Xolile Nqatha officially handed over a newly completed Welisizwe Bridge in Mnqezu Village. This rural village is found under Port St. Johns Local Municipality in the Eastern Cape.

This handover forms part of the Presidential Infrastructure Initiative aimed at improving access and connectivity in rural communities. The construction of these bridges improves a communities access to health facilities, schools and economic amenities.

The newly completed bridge will provide a much-needed safe, and reliable passage for the residents of Mnqezu. This bridge is more than infrastructure, it symbolises dignity, inclusion, progress, and a safe crossing.

While addressing the community, Deputy Minister Sihle Zikalala emphasised that SANRAL also plays a big role in such infrastructure developments. Minister Zikalala spoke with great pride on the completion of this bridge, and the programme in its entirety, stating that the Welisizwe Bridges represent more than infrastructure; they are also about creating work opportunities, and building a nation that works for all its people.

Today the community of Mnqezi came together to witness the delivery of a vital services and infrastructure delivery by the government of South Africa. This Welisizwe Bridge stands as a symbol of hope and progress for South Africa's rural communities.

A community member, Nandipha Macefane, expressed gratitude for the new infrastructure. "Before the construction of the bridge, it was difficult to cross the river during rainy seasons because of the overflowing water. In the past, we had incidents where people were washed away, we are grateful to the DPWI for prioritising our village," she said.



A NATION
THAT WORKS FOR ALL



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