



public works & infrastructure

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ZIKALALA PARTAKES IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES AIMED AT EMPOWERING AND DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES IN THE EASTERN CAPE



Article by Andile Xulu, Pictures by Mahlogonolo Makwela

The Deputy President Paul Mashatile led on a service delivery visit in Qunu, in the Eastern Cape, found under the OR Tambo District Municipality. The visit is part of Government's efforts to strengthen capacity that delivers public services to communities.

Joined by the Deputy Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI), Sihle Zikalala, Deputy President Mashatile visited this rural community to interact with local stakeholders, and visit key projects in sectors such as agriculture, water and sanitation, as well as medium and micro enterprises.

The team also comprising of the Acting Premier of the Eastern Cape Province, Mlungisi Mvoko, leaders from the OR Tambo District, Traditional Leaders, representatives from the KSD Local Municipality, including several Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers, drove job creation initiatives that seek to enhance economic growth in the province, and help eradicate poverty.

The visit also offered the opportunity for government to address service delivery challenges affecting the community of Qunu, and a platform to evaluate progress achieved in the rolling out of the District Development Model (DDM).

During community engagements, Deputy Minister Zikalala outlined a number of initiatives and programmes by DPWI that affirm the commitment to build important infrastructure for communities in the OR Tambo District. "Just yesterday, the department handed over a bridge at Port St John's, to uplift the rural community. We are also in the process for developing a small harbour in Port St. John. The goal is to integrate small harbours with coastal development and implement inclusive initiatives," said Zikalala.

The Deputy Minister also urged the South African Police Services (SAPS) to continue working with DPWI in enforcing Operation Bring Back, an initiative by the department which aims at bringing back government properties that have been illegally occupied.



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