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DAY TWO OF OPERATION SIYAHLOLA FOCUSES ON SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND EPWP IN THABO MOFUTSANYANE



Article and Pictures by Tseke Masemola

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) continued its Operation Siyahlola oversight programme on the second day of the Free State visit, this time focusing on the Thabo Mofutsanyane District. Deputy-Minister (DM) Sihle Zikalala, joined by MEC for Public Works and Infrastructure Dibolelo Mance, led the delegation which consisted of officials from both national and provincial departments. Newly built school infrastructure and an array of community projects were visited by the delegation with the purpose of assessing progress, addressing challenges, and engaging with community stakeholders.

The day began with a briefing at the Bethlehem Provincial Public Works and Infrastructure Office before the principals paid their respects to the Makholokoe Royal House prior to setting foot on the school construction site. Here they met with Chief Morena Tshohisi Moloi, after whom the Morena Tshihisi Moloi II Primary School in Harrismith is named. The engagement with traditional leadership created space for dialogue on outstanding infrastructure needs, accompanied by critical solutions which will reaffirm government's commitment to service delivery. "We must start by respecting our heritage and our elders," said DM Zikalala.

Following the courtesy visit to the Makholokoe Royal House, the programme proceeded to Morena Tshihisi Moloi II Primary School in Harrismith. The oversight engagement offered valuable insights into the progress of the project and its significance for learners and the surrounding community. Stakeholders highlighted how quality school infrastructure not only supports education but also contributes to dignity, community pride, and long-term development, even as the department continues to combat challenges such as delayed contractor payments which have affected progress at the school.

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) also featured prominently on Day Two, with participants visiting the Dihlabeng Cleaning Project and engaging with local artisans. The programme's efforts to clean and green community spaces not only created job opportunities but also breathed new life into areas that had once appeared neglected. These activities highlighted how EPWP continues to contribute to sustainable development while fostering pride and ownership within communities.



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