



## EPWP Bi-Weekly Bulletin

### PROTECT AND CARE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN, IT'S WHAT MADIBA WOULD HAVE WANTED – MINISTER SIHLE ZIKALALA

Article by Michael Mokoena, Pictures by Hope Motitimi and Thabiso Kutu

The Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Honourable Sihle Zikalala, has called on South Africans to work together to protect and care for vulnerable members of society, especially women and children. Speaking during the Nelson Mandela Day event in Hammanskraal, in Pretoria, Minister Zikalala said the communities had a collective responsibility to protect and care for women and to ensure the safety of children and women. "The children that you see here today are our future leaders...they are future Mandelas...they are the future Oliver Tambos...we must all work together to ensure their safety. That is what Madiba would have wanted," Minister Zikalala said.

Speaking at the Tshireletso Orphanage Centre in Hammanskraal, the Minister also appealed to communities to work together to fight the crime that has engulfed many communities. "We must ensure that facilities such as this one – which provides care and support to our children – are protected from crime. We must ensure that criminals do not come and steal items that were donated here today," the Minister said. Talking about the contribution that Tata Madiba made to the liberation of South Africa, Minister Zikalala said that "Mandela dedicated his life to serving the people of South Africa".

"He was not a neutral figure in the society...he was a revolutionary...a fighter who went across the world mobilizing against the Apartheid system. He fought against the oppression of a man by another based on race," the Minister said. He called on leaders in government, business, and greater society to emulate and embody Madiba's spirit of selflessness. "As leaders, we must know that we are here to serve people and not ourselves," Minister Zikalala said.

The Minister stressed that to aptly celebrate Tata Mandela's life, South Africans had to work together to fight for their economic liberation "In celebrating Mandela's life, we must know that the course of liberation continues...the struggle of liberation today is about socioeconomic emancipation. We can no longer continue with an economy that is the preserve of a few while the majority languish in poverty. We must ensure societal development," the Minister stated.

He applauded the government – especially the Gauteng leadership – for creating work for the poor and unemployed South Africans. "By creating work opportunities through programmes such as the EPWP, the government is contributing to the socio-economic upliftment of

the poorest and unskilled members of society. We sometimes speak of the creation of jobs as if we will be able to absorb everyone into the industries that exist in the country. We must ensure that even those who are not skilled are integrated into our economy," Minister Zikalala added

The Nelson Mandela Day event was held at Tshireletso Orphanage Centre in Hammanskraal and was led by the MEC for Gauteng Department for Roads and Transport, Ms. Kedibone Diale-Tlabela. In her speech, MEC Diale-Tlabela echoed Minister Zikalala's sentiments that communities had to work together to ensure the safety and protection of children. "Every weekend we bury people in our communities...but we at times we forget what those burials sometimes leave our children as orphans. It is then up to community centres such as this one to look after the children that are left behind as orphans. It is for this reason we call on all South Africans to work together to love, protect and care for these children," MEC Diale-Tlabela said.

The Mandela Day event was also attended by several Councillors from the City of Tshwane and the leadership of Infrastructure South Africa as well as community members from Hammanskraal and the surrounding. The Chief Whip for the City of Tshwane, Councillor Aaron Maluleka said that they would work with the community to ensure that community centres such as Tshireletso Orphanage were protected. "President Madiba left us with the responsibility of looking after each other. We will ensure that all community centres in our community are protected against criminals," he said.

Delegates who visited Tshireletso Orphanage donated a plethora of gifts to the centre such as computers, appliances, paint, food, blankets, and money. The owner and manager of the centre – Ms. Rose Roro - thanked both Minister Zikalala and MEC Diale-Tlabela as everyone who visited and contributed to the centre. "I never thought a day a wonderful like this would ever take place...the tears I shed today are those of joy...I wish such as day would be every day. Because of your contribution, we will be able to give food, love, and warmth to the children that we are looking after," said a tearful Roro.

Earlier before the visit to the centre, Minister Zikalala and MEC Diale-Tlabela embarked on road pothole patching in the area. ■

### DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HONOURABLE BERNICE SWARTS, MP VISIT SOSHANGUVE TOWNSHIP MAGISTRATES COURT TO MONITOR PROGRESS AND FAST TRACK SERVICE DELIVERY

Article by Lesego Moretlwe, Pictures by Maanea Maselesele

The Deputy Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Honourable Bernice Swarts MP, embarked on the Soshanguve Magistrate Court project site visit to monitor progress in line with the expected completion of the project, thereby fast-tracking service delivery.

Addressing the project team and the stakeholders, Deputy Minister expressed the importance of an urgent need to complete the court which is situated in the township to allow the community to have easier access of justice services within their vicinity.

"The court is being brought to the people and it is important that this court is situated in the township where the services are needed because our people need justice and justice delayed is justice denied, so we want this project to be accelerated and that the project should be finished within the timeframes that have been put, which is December 2023" Deputy Minister said.

This project was awarded in 2019 with the budget of over R300 million. It is implemented by the Department of Public Works and

Infrastructure and it is expected to provide the much-needed accommodation to the client department, which is the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development. The Deputy Minister together with the stakeholders and the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) project team which comprises of professionals in the Construction Industry discussed the challenges in the implementation of the project as well paving a way forward in fast tracking service delivery.

Since the construction of this court, young people have been recruited under the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) National Youth Service (NYS) to gain occupational skills necessary to access sustainable livelihood opportunities. This EPWP-NYS programme targeted 100 participants with the total cost R 5 968 299.91. As in July 2023, the EPWP participants have been trained in trades such as Electrical Engineering, Civil Engineering (bricklaying and plumbing), Mechanical Engineering (diesel and fitting & turner) and Upholstery trade at NQF Level 2 (127 credits). ■

Bulletin issued by  
Communications & Marketing



EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME