

DEAR TEAM

Public Works Infrastructure



July was another busy and productive month for Team Public Works & Infrastructure, with important progress made in infrastructure delivery, public asset management, building safety and the reform of the Expanded Public Works Programme. Across the country, we continued demonstrating what our Department can achieve when we work with urgency and purpose to turn South Africa into a construction site and use public assets for the public good.

At the beginning of the month, our teams demonstrated this urgency near the Beitbridge Border Post in Musina, where, working with the Limpopo Provincial Government, we transformed what had been bush into a fully operational temporary repatriation centre in a matter of days. The facility supports the Department of Home Affairs and Border Management Authority in safely processing migrants leaving South Africa and showed the excellence that exists within our Department.



Oversight of the Beitbridge Border Post repatriation construction alongside Minister Leon Schreiber & Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi

We also hosted the second Public Works & Infrastructure Summit under the theme, "From Collapse to Confidence." At the Summit, we launched the National Built Environment and Construction Safety Framework, signed the National Built Environment and Construction Safety Commitment Pledge with Deputy Minister Sihle Zikalala and Public Works MECs, and launched the Public Infrastructure Confidence Index. This work became even more relevant later in the month when I visited the Nazareth Baptist Church in Inanda following a wall collapse which injured twelve people. Through the Council for the Built Environment, we are working with the church to investigate the collapse and strengthen building safety.





Oversight to the Nazareth Baptist Church building collapse & visiting one of the victims

Our fight against construction-site disruptions also entered a new phase following Cabinet's approval of the Integrated Social Facilitation Framework. When we entered office, more than 180 projects worth around R63 billion had been disrupted, delayed or affected by the construction mafia. Since then, more than 770 cases have been reported, 241 arrests made and 176 convictions secured. The new Framework will strengthen lawful community participation and help prevent criminals from hijacking legitimate community concerns.

At the start of July, I also returned to the Sarah Baartman Centre of Remembrance in Hankey, Eastern Cape, where I formally handed the site over to a newly appointed contractor after more than a decade of delays. This important project is finally back on the path towards completion and will ensure Sarah Baartman's memory is honoured with the dignity she deserves.



Handing over properties to be used as shelters in the Western Cape.

Our commitment to using public assets for the public good continued throughout the month. In the Western Cape, we formalised the use of six DPWI properties for Gender-Based Violence and Femicide shelter services and also handed over property in Mossel Bay to support policing services. At the same time, after it emerged that government owns 6,238 residential properties allocated to departments, I requested a comprehensive investigation to determine which remain operationally necessary and which should be disposed of through transparent and lawful processes.

Reforming the Expanded Public Works Programme remained another major focus. Following my earlier decision to suspend EPWP transfers to eThekweni Municipality, I welcomed the municipality's corrective action plan, including recovery processes, disciplinary action, criminal cases and stronger internal controls. We will continue insisting that every work opportunity is genuine, every beneficiary is verified and every public rand reaches its intended recipient.

Later in the month, we launched the next phase of our Working on Infrastructure pilot programme in Limpopo, following its first rollout in KwaZulu-Natal. This is one of the most significant reforms to EPWP in two decades, moving participants towards longer practical training, workplace experience and mentorship while maintaining public infrastructure. Ahead of the launch, I was honoured to meet Her Majesty Queen Manyaku Thulare of the Bapedi Kingdom to discuss how government and traditional leadership can work together to expand opportunities for young people.



Launch of Working on Infrastructure in Limpopo

Mid-month, I joined uMngeni Local Municipality Mayor Chris Pappas at Howick Police Station, where DPWI repairs have restored holding cells that had been closed since 2019 and improved other essential infrastructure. Ahead of Mandela Day, we also spent time at Sikhulile Crèche in Nottingham Road repainting facilities, repairing fencing and donating equipment and educational materials for the children.

July also provided an opportunity to reflect on our responsibility as custodians of South Africa's heritage. I joined the President and the South African National Defence Force to commemorate the 110th anniversary of the Battle of Delville Wood, where the Department has played an important role in restoring the memorial and expanding the museum to better recognise those lost aboard the SS Mendi and those who served in the Cape Corps.



At the Battle of Delville Wood memorial in France.

Towards the end of the month, Infrastructure South Africa opened Project Preparation Bid Window III, backed by a R600 million commitment to project delivery support. This will help qualifying public-sector institutions prepare major infrastructure projects and move them from concept towards bankability, investment and ultimately construction.

We also welcomed the City of Cape Town's record R12.24 billion infrastructure investment programme as an example of what is possible when government plans properly, builds capacity and turns budgets into construction activity. Through Infrastructure South Africa's Adopt-A-Municipality pilot programme, we want to take lessons from successful municipalities and apply them elsewhere.

Looking ahead to August, a major focus will be the Sustainable Infrastructure Development Symposium South Africa (SIDSSA) in Cape Town, bringing together government, investors and the private sector to accelerate infrastructure investment and move more projects towards construction.

As we reflect on July, I want to thank every official across the Department and our entities for your continued commitment and hard work. From delivering infrastructure in record time to reforming EPWP, improving public buildings and preparing major projects for investment, we continue to show the important role Public Works & Infrastructure can play in rebuilding South Africa.

Let us maintain this momentum as we continue putting shovels in the ground, cranes in the sky and turning South Africa into a construction site.

Yours in service

MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

DEAN MACPHERSON,MP



public works
& infrastructure

Department:
Public Works and Infrastructure
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



public works
& infrastructure

Department:
Public Works and Infrastructure
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA