



public works

Department:
Public Works
Province of KwaZulu-Natal



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INTRODUCTION

The development of infrastructure by any government or enterprise is arguably one of the critical components of building a nation that has aspirations for the better. It is therefore without doubt that the Department of Public Works in KwaZulu-Natal takes the lead in changing people's lives through this service delivery mandate. It is fundamental that structures that are required for the functioning of a community and or society remain embedded within the basic human rights.

Given its structural stature of Head Office, Directorates, Regional Offices and Districts, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Public Works, has more of its core service delivery mandate engulfed under the auspices of the Branch or Chief Directorate: Operations under the leadership of Mr TA Mdadane. This branch therefore is continuously engaged with enormous infrastructure development projects that positively, directly and indirectly contribute to the economic growth of the province and this in turn translates to positive investment. In a nutshell, the Branch Operations serves the purpose of reconstructing all essential public infrastructure and this remain an important ingredient for recovery, sustained economic growth and poverty reduction.

It helps impoverished communities by improving their access to essential infrastructure, such as schools, clinics, public libraries and buildings as well as houses; employing local skilled and un-skilled labors for construction work. Through a stringent allocated budget, it remains a challenge to can completely close all gaps, however, the available expertise of a formidable team and role players employed within the Public Works circles has elevated to a better position in respect of prudent utilisation of its budget within a given period of delivery.

It will also be fair to indicate that it would require to taking joint effort from a humanitarian community and long-term commitments for Public Works together with its partners in the provincial government and stakeholders to rebuild its infrastructure implementation strategy and begin to properly address other needs of the livelihoods within the province.

It is in the context of this handbook to indicate, acknowledge and confirm that, yes, a lot of positives has been registered, but there is still more to be done to address the challenges identified in the course of delivery. Constructive criticism is an element that would seek to pave way for betterment and change. A lot of other issues have come up in infrastructure projects because they have not taken off the ground therefore, the need for team efforts remains crucial in this venture. Let us therefore build on the positives that we have managed to put in place so as we can see the light in the dark tunnel.

Richmond Community Development Programme

An Overview

The Richmond Community Development Programme (RCDP) is the brainchild of the KZN Provincial Government. Honourable MEC for Human Settlement and Public Works was mandated to devise a strategic job creation and skills development initiatives to be implemented in the area, hence the birth of this programme with an allocated total budget of R45 million to stimulate the local economy through job creation and skills development projects within the Richmond Municipality.

The following programmes were identified to absorb a significant number of people into work opportunities – the National Youth Service Programme (NYSP); the Maintenance Programme; the KZN Integrated Greening Programme; and the Sanitation Programme. These programmes are implemented in all seven (7) Wards of the Richmond Municipality.

Through the introduction of the Richmond Community Development Programme (RCDP), the Provincial Public Works Department has since developed and implemented programmes which have achieved a number of milestones. To date the Richmond Community Development Programme has created 833 work opportunities which includes skilled and unskilled labour. The programme is supported and endorsed by the local leadership and the recruitment of locals was done through Operation Sukuma Sakhe (OSS) and through the Municipal database to ensure local participation.



Above: A group photo shoot of the Provincial Cabinet members with Richmond community members during a site visit at the launch of EPWP Phase 3 on the 20th of March 2015.

The goals of the Richmond Community Development Programme (RCDP) is to create employment and alleviate poverty; promote social cohesion; inculcate a culture of service to communities while equipping beneficiaries with skills, knowledge and attitudes that contribute to sustainable livelihoods. The overall programme objective is to build a strong community asset base and imparting of skills for locals to be more competitive and employable in the job market thus creating sustainable livelihoods in Richmond communities.

Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)

The Expanded Public Works Programme is a government programme aimed at poverty alleviation and reducing unemployment through the provision of work opportunities for unskilled people focusing on labour- intensive methods, training and skills development. The objectives of EPWP are poverty reduction, work experience, on-the-job training, skills and the improved quality of services.

On the 20th of March 2015, the Richmond community witnessed as the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government led by the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Senzo Edward Mchunu officially launched the Phase 3 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). This is a project which was initially coordinated and hosted by the KwaZulu-Natal Departments of Transport and Public Works. The launch at Richmond is subsequent to the launch hosted by the President of South Africa, Honourable JG Zuma, on the 3rd of October 2014 in the Eastern Cape Province. EPWP Phase 3 was henceforth graced and handed over from its previous custodian, the KZN Transport, to the new and current custodian, the KZN Public Works as is the case in all other Provinces.

A comprehensive EPWP specific implementation strategy will be tabled and driven to ensure that Public Works will continue to making a call to all infrastructure development sectors within the province and the country in making positive inroads to employment and economic shift for the betterment of the lives of the South African citizenry.



The Launch of the Eyesizwe Contractor Development Programme (ECDP)

The MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, Mr Ravigasen Ranganathan Pillay MPL, led the Public Works' Executive Management, employees, contractor representatives and key guests during the Provincial launch of the Eyesizwe Contractor Development Programme (ECDP) which was preceded by four regional launches (Midlands, Southern, eThekweni and North Coast Regions) on interval dates respectively.



Above: (ltr) Head of Department for Public Works, Mr A Govender with MEC RR Pillay in the centre with Mrs M Fraiser, Chairperson of the KZN Public Works Portfolio Committee on the right during the launch of the ECDP at eThekweni Conference Centre, Mayville in Durban on the 5th of May 2015

The National Youth Service Programme (NYSP)

The NYSP is a government youth-oriented programme aimed at the provision of formal and accredited skills programme for the youth through community service delivery and infrastructure delivery initiatives. The programme promotes nation building, fosters social cohesion and strengthens service delivery while assisting the youth to gain occupational skills necessary to access sustainable livelihood opportunities.

The KZN Dept of Public Works started to implement the Programme in 2007 and has already engaged 430 young people in the programme including the Richmond NYS Programme. On the NYS Phase 5 Programme 110 Youth were recruited all four (4) Regions to undergo training on a Further Education and Training: Plumbing Construction - at NQF level 04.

All recruited learners are currently receiving training on the full National Certificate: Building and Civil Construction - NQF level 3 qualification with a strong focus on Bricklaying and Plastering. A total amount of R7.4 million has been allocated for the NYS Phase 5 Programme and the participants receive a stipend of R1 800 per month to enable them the opportunity to support themselves and their households while undertaking training.



Above is Sanelisiwe Dlamini, one of the EPWP-NYS beneficiary during an on-site action while building the War Room for based at the Silahlia Stadium in Richmond. The programme provides her with stipendary support as she also acquire plumbing skills

The KZN Integrated Greening Programme

The original aim of the KZN IGP was to develop and implement a comprehensive program, that supports a wide range of community based greening activities, including, (but not limited to): “Tree-preneurs” – growing and planting indigenous and edible plants; “Waste-preneurs” – collecting recyclable waste; “Green-preneurs” – trading bicycles, water tanks, solar energy devices; Reforestation projects, restoring community forest assets; Conservation projects, harnessing local co-tourism and sustainable use opportunities. Since its inception in 2011, the programme has achieved the following milestones:

- 3 876 community members have participated in the IGP since inception;
- R36 095 333 have been spent in community wages, costing government R79 per person a day and all funds allocated by government were spent exclusively on EPWP wages;
- The KZN Wildlands has contributed R52 514 761 towards the initial capital layout of project and continues to fund all non-EPWP salaries and running costs;
- 220 407 trees have been propagated across the KZN Province against the target of 212 000;
- In the 2014/15 financial period 279 907 trees have been planted against a target of 212 000;
- Since inception “green-preneurs” have traded 1 908 304 trees with the KZN Integrated Greening Programme, and the trees are traded for livelihood support goods, including food, Jo-Jo tanks, bicycles and building materials;



- In respect of the planting of trees, the KZN IGP has successfully planted 1 829 131 trees across KZN and the tree planting activities have been supported by the National Department of Environmental Affairs who made funding available, through Wildlands to cover salaries of 250 full-time restoration team workers;
- In addition, the KZN IGP has successfully collected 8 604 157kg of recyclable waste from KZN communities. The recycling initiative catalysed by the KZN IGP has since been strengthened by additional investment from the DBSA Green Fund;
- An added value and benefit of the Richmond community is that 210 participants have since been employed and more than 200 new food-gardens were established while local schools also participated in growing vegetables for school feeding schemes.



Trees are traded for livelihood support goods, including food, Jo Jo tanks, bicycles and building materials.

The Maintenance Programme

The Maintenance Programme is targeting manual clearance of schools through utilizing the unskilled and the neediest people as labour for the programme. It focuses directly at poverty alleviation through identification of unemployed people from the poorest of the poor households as beneficiaries. To date the programme has registered a financial boost to a total of 146 beneficiaries that have been allocated to various schools around Richmond Municipality. The main advantage for the schools is that their environments are greatly maintained. Beneficiaries receive a stipend of R1 500 per month and are allocated for work only four days a week. At total of 56 schools have benefitted with the school breakdown of 47 Primary and 9 High Schools respectively.

In overall, the achieved programme milestones within the set period of delivery impact included a progressive identification of project areas; shortlisting of applicants closets to nearby schools; conduct of briefing sessions to shortlisted candidates within all Wards (Wards 1 to 7); distribution of tools and protective clothing to all selected participants & re-allocation of participants to their nearest schools; workshop participants on OHS, use of tools and basic maintenance and finally the commencement of maintenance work by all participants

The Sanitation Programme

This programme is addressing gaps in the sanitation backlog in this area by providing toilets to households that do not have sanitation facilities and those that have toilets that are unusable.

The number of units to be constructed is 2 250 within a budget of R 20 million and a total of 2 117 units have been completed and the remaining balance is targeted for completion by end of March 2015. This project has maximised the job creation potential of sanitation provision. It has not only employed builders from the Richmond Communities but has employed task team members in each ward and trained and utilised them in varying capacities from storekeeping, logistics arrangements to health and hygiene promotion, from security and project co-ordination to off – loaders.

The KwaZulu-Natal Portfolio Committee site visit at Ceza Hospital

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Public Works' Portfolio Committee led by Mrs Mbali Fraser MPL, who is Chairperson to the committee had to be hard at work as they witnessed part of Public Works' catalyst infrastructure development programmes during a hospital site visit at Ceza Hospital, North Coast of the province on the 20th of February 2013. To date, the Portfolio Committee has thus far attested to numerous progressive infrastructure development projects which Public Works has delivered on.



Above is the oversight visit by the KZN Public Works Portfolio Committee led by Mrs Mbali Fraser MPL

Delivery on Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres

The Early Childhood Development (ECD) is in essence a child's holistic upbringing, which include social, physical and emotional. The earliest months and years of life are considered the most important developmental stages in the human lifespan. Therefore, Public Works' involvement becomes paramount to building a vibrant and generous society by providing children the necessary tools for up growth, critical thinking, understanding and tolerance.

The construction of Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres also remained at the center of Public Works mandate on infrastructure development. Amajuba District Office, in Newcastle, Midlands Region to date boasts an approximate 8 EDC centres completed thus far, some are here below shown. The construction of ECDs will remain located in government's delivery of infrastructure development mandate.



Getting the right start in life!! Above (ltr) Annandale and Inverness Primary Schools both boost the ECDs as developed and at completion stages both from Amajuba District in Newcastle, Midlands

The Inkululeko Development Projects at Ndumo



Above are members of the Provincial Cabinet led by Premier Senzo E Mchunu at an official launch of Inkululeko Development Projects at Ndumo on the 30th of November 2013. (ftrl) MEC Mchunu for Community Safety & Liaison; MEC Pillay for Human Settlements & Public Works; MEC Cronje for Finance; Former KZN Premier, Dr Z Mkhize and Premier SE Mchunu.

This flagship programme which comprises of the following sub-projects; Training and Development, Education, Housing, Community and Health will create immense job opportunities such as bricklayers, plumbers, store men and many more thus will contribute in the betterment of the community of the Ndumo Region. The rebuilding of St Phillips Primary School which is estimated to cost R25 164 682, has benefited the local community, as labour was sourced locally. More than 88 people are employed in this project.

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROJECTS

Shallcross and Austerville Human Settlements Projects

Observation of the construction project for the Shallcross is that much of the social housing rental stock in Shallcross is over forty years old and in serious need of rehabilitation and upgrading to meet current housing policies and municipal regulations. Many units suffer from water penetration of walls during heavy and driving rain. After the commencement of the work project, it was found that many of the cement building blocks used to construct the buildings were poorly manufactured and were quite fragile. Precinct works have had little or no attention for some time. Storm water control was no longer effective and many units had a problem with rising damp and/or water seeping up through ground-floor surface beds. Internally, the units were originally provided with rudimentary ablution facilities, without a hot water facility. There were also no firewalls in the roof space between individual units. Asbestos cement roofing had to be replaced and the roof slope needed to be increased. Towards the finishing of the external plaster was being prepared for painting it was found that the plaster was also quite fragile and great care had to be taken with pressure cleaning and anti-fungal treatment so as not to scour the plaster off the buildings. This confirmed the reasons for rain penetration as alleged by the tenants and the request from the Department of Human Settlements to implement special measures to weather proof the external walls. The building blocks 755 G & H were identified by the community for rehabilitation in the Pilot Phase. The practical completion for the project was taken on the 4th of April 2014 and the tenants have been moved back to their houses. There is nobody occupying the decanting site, however the Department of Human Settlement has appointed a security company to monitor the security and safety of the area/ complex.

Construction of the KZN Public Works Head Office

The renovation and redevelopment phases of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Public Works' Head Office began in 2007 which included the new offices on the ground floor, the Head Of Department (HOD) and MEC suites, Information Technology (IT) office and new registry in the basement. These phases included new 8th floor (plus basement); add 9th floor to existing tower block for additional offices; new parking garage; new boardroom, staff canteen and library; the reconfiguration of existing bathrooms in tower block to rationalise the use of space and create more storage space per floor; electrical rewiring of existing tower block to bring the building up to code; installation of all new lifts and loft lobbies; and landscaping. The entire building project will ultimately accommodate all Head Office personnel including most of the Corporate Service personnel who currently housed at the Fedsure House building at Church Street. The completion date is projected to the 16th of October 2015.



Above is KZN Public Works renovation project which is underway and to be completed by October 2015

Opening of the Public Works eThekweni Conference Center

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Public Works takes pride in its commitment to good governance in respect of prudent utilisation of resources. After several months of continuous work and construction, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Public Works has opened its doors to its newly transformed eThekweni Conference Centre. The building was converted from a no-longer utilized existing concrete shed to a 'state-of-the-art' conference centre in just ten months. The Conference Centre boasts one large conference with a seating capacity of approximately 550 delegates and three other different sized multi-functional commission rooms capable of seating fewer numbers and a Minister's office suite facility.



Above: (l & r) MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works Mr Ravi Pillay officially opens the eThekweni Conference Centre together with the Head of Department Roger Govender, his executive and parliamentarians serving on the KZN Public Works Portfolio Committee. On the right is the interior part of the centre with fitted chairs

STORM DAMAGED SCHOOLS PROJECTS



Above is the project installation of new Jojo and tank stand base construction of new ablution blocks

CONCLUSION

The Department of Public Works will continue to strive to good governance and also ensure effectiveness and efficiency in the execution of its mandate. It is therefore without doubt that there will be some gaps and challenges that will emerge sporadically within the delivery of infrastructure development. The department shall to continue to working with communities and stakeholders alike for their support and guidance through constructive criticism. The community and Public Works clients are invited to hold us to our pledge. In essence, putting people first will not be a trivial principle and often requires significant, even if often simple, departures from business as usual. Given an established Public Works' competent workforce, the conditions for achieving the greatest infrastructure development potential, requires strong leadership to take on the complexities of systems and bring their parts into alignment, while managers face the equally difficult challenge of bringing about people-centred services in the day-to-day functioning of service provision.

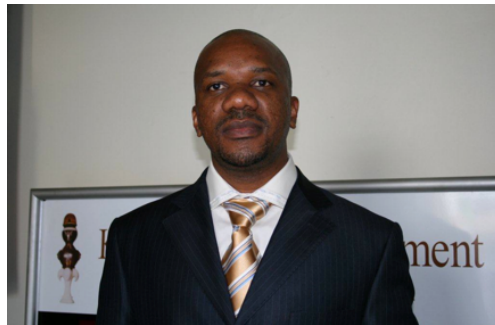
This means Public Works will optimize service delivery across all levels and settings of construction and infrastructure development for optimal provision along construction continuum, rather than as silos of excellence.

In conclusion, let us take from the challenges we continue to identify the opportunity to work harder to strengthen a people-centred public works systems as the foundation for effective construction and infrastructure development. Our failure to invest in the Public Works systems might leave us with no backbone to withstand the shocks that this century in delivering with unprecedented frequency.



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EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME