

KZN Public Works Portfolio Committee visits infrastructure projects in North Coast Region

Angel 'Mkhethie' Sibisi reports

The KwaZulu-Natal Public Works Portfolio Committee once again stamped authority in monitoring and overseeing the work of KZN Public Works under the slogan “*Building Communities through construction*”. The portfolio Committee visited two projects in the North Coast Region on Tuesday, 18 November 2014. The purpose of the site visits was to ensure the evaluation and progress of proper service delivery for the benefit of the people of this province.



As seen in the above pictures the members of the KZN Portfolio committee, onsite while viewing the scope of work carried out during the renovation and repairs to the former ministerial houses at ULundi B-North section.

The visit commenced with a briefing session attended by members of the Portfolio Committee, KZN Public Works team and contractor representatives. Mr EMB Ntsele, the Acting Regional Manager for the North Coast Region furnished the Delegation with the presentation about the Ulundi Former Ministerial Houses, where 12 of the 15 former ministerial houses were recently repaired and renovated at a value of R1 097 111. The site handover was in 25 July 2014 and there were no delays or challenges during the project phase.



The Nhlopheni Clinic in Vryheid, North Coast Region

The second project was the Nhlopheni Clinic based in the outskirts of Vryheid. The community of Nhlopheni didn't have a clinic previously and they relied on the mobile clinics to access healthcare services. The main aim of this project is to improve the level of service delivery to the public and provide access to healthcare services to the local community. The site was handed over on 11 March 2014 and it created more than 26 jobs opportunities which were sourced locally.

The demographics of labour employed are as follows:

- Number of African Persons: 19 men and 7 women
- Number of youth: 23 (men and women from 16-35 years)

The project also benefited the community through Employment of unskilled people to do bricklaying and work as Onsite Safety Representatives, The most added value of this project was not only the creation of job opportunities but also Skills Development which assisted them in acquiring sustainable jobs in other sites in Newcastle.



As seen above the delegation inspecting the sewage system and the water purification plant at Nhlopheni Clinic

Another highlight of the Nhlopheni Clinic is the water purification plant which is onsite which tracks access to clean, safe water and sanitation as well as the advanced sewage

system that consists of an underground tank, which is connected to the waste water pipes. The tank is specifically built to enable the separation of solids and water, and this tank has its own draining fields. The solids that are not digested by bacteria will only be pumped out after 5 years to avoid the septic tank from overflowing. The main advantage of this system is that it does not pose threat to the environment.

Amongst others the primary function of the KZN Public Works Portfolio Committee is to oversee the work of the department, enquire and make recommendations about any aspect of the department, including its structure, functioning and policy. Amongst a number of recommendations from the Portfolio Committee members, was the importance of maintaining a good and stable relationship between the contractor and the Department to avoid miscommunication which could delay the site handover time.