

A happy day for the Public Works' interns from uMlalazi as they graduateStory and photos by Sibongile Dlangalala



MEC R.R Pillay and the National Public Works team congratulate the interns who graduated under the National Public Works Internship Programme

The Department of Public Works recently hosted a graduation ceremony for the students who were placed under the National Public Works Internship Programme. The event took place at eShowe on Friday 19th of October 2012. Before the beginning of the festivities, the MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, Mr Ravi Pillay, first visited the War Room as part of the Operation Sukuma Sakhe (OSS) drive to personally observe and register the concerns and achievements of the area in question.

The KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Dr Zweli Mkhize has, as part of the provincial government's objective mandated all other MECs to visit War Rooms whenever hosting an event in respective areas in order to monitor service delivery progress and identify possible interventions where problems are being experienced. MEC Pillay visited the War Room in Ward 10 under uMlalazi Municipality. He congratulated and extended his compliments to the community on such a well organised War Room and thanked the volunteers on giving their commitment, devotion and time for providing community work. Mr Pillay further assured the community that their concerns raised are noted as serious and important and will be forwarded to the Premier for further deliberation, review and address.



MEC R.R Pillay as he addressed the community members of Ward 10 under uMlalazi Municipality.

It is of importance to note that the internship programme aims at addressing the high unemployment rate amongst the youth in KwaZulu-Natal and South Africa at large. The programme further intends to producing skilled young people and preparing them for the future work environment. The Internship Programme has indeed proven to be a success after registering 80% average pass rate during the 2012 academic year. The graduands were given an opportunity to give testimonies respectively. Ms Thembi Skhakhane, who has been placed as a Personnel Practitioner within the Human Resources Development section at the National Public Works offices in Durban testified and attested that when she started as an intern the stipend she was receiving during the time helped her much in supporting in alleviation of a financial burden towards her family. She was encouraged to work hard and harder. “You don’t have to earn millions to succeed in life, you just have to apply your mind and the rewards will follow” said Thembi.

Mr Mlungisi Dlamini, also an intern under the Internship Programme said he is overwhelmed by just entering the work environment, as he recalls how he was intimidated during the first day and time when entering the boardroom. In his testimony, Mlungisi encourages the youth, “money is not everything but it’s the knowledge and the skills acquired that will open doors” he stressed.



Above are the graduands under the KZN National Public Works Internship programme. Ms Thembi Skhakhane (left) and Mr Mlungisi Dlamini (right)

MEC Pillay congratulated the graduates on their achievement and also commended them on their dedication, discipline and patience towards achieving their goals. He further conveyed and relayed best wishes on behalf of the KwaZulu-Natal Premier Dr Zweli Mkhize and assured the graduands and guests present that government is doing everything possible to tackle the high level of unemployment amongst the youth. “There is enough in this world for our needs but not enough for our greed” quoted ME Pillay.



MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works: Mr R.R Pillay