

KZN Public Works in the Forefront in changing lives of the people Ndumo.

Writes Angel Sibisi and Pictures by Sane Khumalo

The community of Ndumo, North of KwaZulu-Natal Province witnessed a historic event on Saturday, 30 November 2013. The KZN Provincial Cabinet launched the Inkululeko Regeneration Programme that will see massive Infrastructure and social development around the Ndumo region. The KZN Public Works has been mandated a role of an Implementing Agent, thus managing and implementing all infrastructure related projects which include the finalization of land issues; appointment of consultants; managing contractors and other implementing agents.

This flagship programme which comprises of the following sub-projects; Community, Education, Health Care, Training and Development and Housing, will create immense job opportunities such as bricklayers, Plumbers, Store men and many more, 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.





As seen above: The Construction and upgrade underway at St Phillips Primary School

The upgrade of the Maphindela Primary which is estimated to cost around R13 692 125 has created more than 55 jobs already which includes women and youth.

The upgrade of Thelamama Primary School which is estimated to cost around R18 142 371 has created more than 57 jobs opportunities already. The Holistic purpose of this project is to improve the lives of the people residing in rural areas.



As seen above: The construction underway at Ndumo Clinic

This project integrates different Government Departments.

The KZN Department of Economic Development and Tourism as part of this programme will inject the construction of the Ndumo Rural Town that comprises of a shopping Centre. The KZN Department of Education will oversee the construction of a new model school and the upgrade of 3 existing Primary Schools. The KZN Department of Transport will oversee the

upgrade of Roads. The KZN Department of Health will oversee the upgrade of the Ndumo Clinic. The KZN Public Works will be an implementing Department for all these Departments. This initiative, spearheaded by Government, will give rise to exciting economic opportunities for Business.



As seen above: Nomsa Nsibande (SHE Rep) sharing how the EPWP has changed her life.

Ms Nomsa Nsibande, a young lady who proudly testified how the EPWP programme has changed her life. She is working as a SHE Rep (Safety, Health and Environment Representative) at St Phillips Primary School where she is responsible for identifying, evaluating and recording safety, health and environmental hazards on site and be able to evaluate the risks attached to operational tasks and processes. Nomsa is a mother of three children and is a breadwinner she has been working at this project for seven months, because of the experience she has acquired already, one day her dream is to become an expert in her field.



As seen above: Mr Evas Masinga working as a Storeman at St Phillips Primary school

Mr Evas Masinga is originally from Pongola and he has benefited from EPWP, he is working as a Storeman where he is responsible for holding stock or large quantities of equipment and ensuring that stock levels do not run out. Mr Masinga is a happily married family man with three daughters and two sons. *“I am grateful for the EPWP programme since I am the head of my family; I have solely managed to finish paying for the education of my five children, they are now working and in turn are assisting me.*

This is just a tip of an iceberg, which clearly shows that EPWP has changed people’s lives through creating employment. For the poor, labour is often the only asset they can use to improve their well-being. Hence the creation of productive employment opportunities is essential for achieving poverty reduction and sustainable economic and social development.