

# Ramaphosa to visit EPWP projects

KWAZULU-NATAL'S cradle of democracy, Inanda township, will play host to Deputy President, Cyril Ramaphosa tomorrow when he leads a delegation of Cabinet ministers and MECs to visit projects under the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

The focus will be on the Zibambele Road Maintenance programme.

Inanda is home to the Ohlange High School founded by Dr John Langalibalele Dube and the site where former president Nelson Mandela cast his first vote in the historic 1994 elections.

Dube was immediate neighbours with Mahatma Gandhi in the Phoenix Settlement and the prophet Isiah Shembe.

Further down the road is the prestigious girls' school founded by Mary Kelly Edwards and American missionaries in the 19th century.

Among the seminary's alumni is the KZN Premier's special adviser Linda Zama who worked closely with both presidents Mandela and OR Tambo.

The Zibambele Road Maintenance programme was launched in 1998 by the KZN provincial government. It was set up as a weapon in the fight against poverty by creating work opportunities.

MEC for human settlements and public works Ravi Pillay is responsible for the overall coordination of

the EPWP in the KZN.

The EPWP has made an impact in ensuring that communities benefit financially from the maintenance of provincial roads.

"Income from these work opportunities have not only put food on the table for poor families but our people have learned valuable construction skills," Pillay said.

"The programme created 40 000 work opportunities in 2015-2016.

Ramaphosa will meet groups of EPWP participants and visit community assets created and maintained by them.

With the targets set in the National Development Plan in mind, he will also conduct an assessment of the EPWP in alleviating poverty and unemployment among poor and unemployed South Africans in the area.

The Deputy President is chairperson of the Public Employment Programmes Inter-ministerial Committee (PEP-IMC).

"PEP-IMC provides a high-level and collective leadership to achieve better synergy among Public Employment Programmes and to ensure the government achieves its target of creating 6 million work opportunities by 2019," Ramaphosa said. - 701198



**REACHING OUT:** Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa says that cooperation among stakeholders on job creation is a work in progress. PICTURE: BONGIWE MCHUNU