

# EPWP BULLETIN

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## Bridging Distances, Connecting Lives: North West Communities Celebrate New Infrastructure Milestone

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Two rural communities in the North West Province recently marked a transformative milestone with the official handover of two newly constructed Welisizwe Bridges in Kraaipan and Masutlhe 1. The handover ceremonies, led by Deputy Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure Sihle Zikalala, MEC for Public Works and Roads in the North West Mme Sempe Elizabeth Mokua, and the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), were held last month in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District.

The events celebrated not only the completion of key infrastructure but also a renewed sense of access, unity, and development for the region.

Deputy Minister Zikalala hailed the bridges as symbols of responsive and people-centered governance.

"These bridges are not just about infrastructure; they are about dignity and development," Zikalala said. "Let us close the gap between government and the people. The time for isolated planning is over. We are building together."

The bridges, once a vision, now provide safe, year-round access for thousands of residents who previously faced challenges navigating flood-prone areas.

Beyond improved mobility, the project delivered tangible economic benefits. A total of 40 community members were employed through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), while 5 skilled artisans contributed to the construction process—promoting local participation, job creation, and skills development.

These bridges stand as a testament to inclusive development and the power of collaboration across government and communities.

