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MinMEC Welcomes Expanded Public Works Programme Performance Report

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The Acting Deputy Director-General for the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), Mr. Molatelo Mohwasa, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the Programme's overall performance at the recent MinMEC meeting, alongside the EPWP Chief Director, Mr. Ariyo Ignatius, who contributed to the Vukuphile Learner Contractor Development Programme presentation.

The meeting took place from 18 to 19 September 2025 at the Eastern Cape Training Centre in Gqeberha, Eastern Cape Province. MinMEC is a high-level intergovernmental forum chaired by the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Mr. Dean Macpherson. The forum brings together provincial Members of Executive Council (MECs) responsible for Public Works to discuss strategic priorities, policy alignment, and coordination across all spheres of government.

The opening of the first day was graced by the Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, Hon. Paul Mashatile, who delivered a keynote address reaffirming government's commitment to job creation and inclusive economic participation through infrastructure-led development.

The EPWP presentation sparked an engaging and results-driven discussion among provincial representatives and senior officials. Key focus areas included the implementation and coordination of EPWP across provinces, strategies to strengthen the Vukuphile Contractor Development Programme, funding mechanisms, and the sustainability of small contractors.

Highlighting the Programme's achievements, Mr. Mohwasa noted that 923,718 work opportunities were created during the 2024/25 financial year. This represents 18% of the five-year target and 92% of the annual target, reflecting government's ongoing dedication to building local capacity, expanding public employment initiatives, and nurturing emerging enterprises in the infrastructure sector.

In his remarks, Mr. Ignatius recommended the formal adoption of the EPWP Performance Data Sign-Off Process, stating: "The MinMEC is encouraged to support this process, which was introduced to improve the accuracy, credibility, and accountability of performance data reported through the EPWP Reporting System (EPWP-RS)."

MinMEC members expressed strong support for enhancing contractor development, agreeing that targeted support for Vukuphile contractors should be prioritised, with particular emphasis on their long-term sustainability and advancement to higher CIDB grading levels.

Through this meeting, government has demonstrated its unwavering commitment to developing local skills, improving public employment programmes, and supporting the growth of emerging infrastructure businesses across South Africa.

