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DEPUTY PRESIDENT MASHATILE CONVENES THE INAUGURAL INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMMES

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The Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency Paul Mashatile, on Friday, 07 November 2025, convened the inaugural meeting of the Public Employment Programmes Inter-Ministerial Committee (PEP-IMC) of the 7th Administration.

The meeting focused on strengthening coordination of Public Employment Programmes (PEPs) across the state — including the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) — to maximise impact in addressing unemployment, poverty and inequality.

The objective of the PEP-IMC is to provide strategic leadership and oversight on all PEPs in South Africa, and to optimise their contribution to social protection and employment outcomes.

In his capacity as Chairperson of the PEP-IMC, Deputy President Mashatile, together with the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Mr. Dean Macpherson (Deputy Chairperson), led the deliberations which included:

- Reasserting the overall policy imperatives for PEPs in the context of rising unemployment
- Addressing fragmentation between programmes and improving alignment
- Enhancing skills and enterprise development within PEPs
- Driving leadership coherence to ensure sustainable livelihoods for participants

Key issues highlighted for improved implementation of PEPs include:

- Ensuring strategic coherence, oversight and accountability across all PEPs
- Exploring sustainable funding models for delivery at scale
- Strengthening enterprise development and brokering partnership with the private sector
- Holding public bodies accountable for poor performance or non compliance
- Improving coordination between PEPs and the national skills system to support sustainable exit pathways

Minister Macpherson welcomed the contributions of all Ministers and stated:

"As the coordinating department, we reaffirm the importance of scaling up training, accountability and pathways into real economic opportunities for participants. We remain steadfast in ensuring PEPs promote impactful skills development initiatives and long-term work opportunities."

