

EPWP BULLETIN

VOLUME 2. ISSUE 34. 18 February 2026



Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure welcomes the DPWI Performance

Article by: Lesego Moretlwe Pictures by: Caroline Mokotedi

Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure concluded its four-day (03 –06 February 2026) oversight visit in Mpumalanga province on a positive note. This followed the sterling performance of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) on the effective and efficient construction of the Verena C bus project in Nkangala District Municipality.

The Verena Bus service is a multi-year project which started in 2024/2025 and anticipated to be completed in the 2026/2027 financial year with a budget allocation of R44.7 million. This project is funded through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant and implemented by Thembisile Hani Local Municipality within Nkangala District Municipality.

The project is aimed at improving traffic movement and protecting Infrastructure by preventing storm water damage. The project is benefitting 2100 households by improving mobility and has created 35 EPWP work opportunities with an inclusion of women, youth and people with disabilities. A total of 16 subcontractors were also appointed to execute the project and thus contribute to local economic development. The project also enhances Programme exit strategies which include opportunities for Participants' training and small business development.

Speaking about the Verena C Bus project progress, the chairperson of the Committee, Ms Carol Phiri highlighted that “today, we are thrilled to be on-site and experience the quality delivery of a 2.4 km pavement road in Verena. This reflects a true meaning of value for money and community development. We are therefore advocating for more funding to be allocated to Thembisile Hani Local Municipality to implement more infrastructure projects of this nature”, said Ms Phiri.

The committee has also visited the Mapulaneng hospital in Ehlanzeni District Municipality, Mpumalanga High Court in the City of Mbombela as well as the Standerton Police Station in the Gert Sibande District Municipality. Once completed, the Mapulaneng hospital will serve as a regional referral hospital, enhancing efficient and effective healthcare services for those in need. Through the construction of this facility, a total of 820 work opportunities have been created.

Meanwhile, the Mpumalanga high court plays a critical role in providing access to justice for the Mpumalanga residents across all

regions. However, the structural defects obstruct the smooth running of the court. Once the identified structural defects such as roof leakages are addressed, this facility will provide seamless access to justice.

During an oversight visit in Standerton, the Portfolio Committee condemned the illegal occupation of state houses which could be used for the community benefit. In her concluding remarks, Ms Phiri said that despite the irregularities identified at the Mapulaneng hospital in Ehlanzeni District and Mpumalanga High Court, “these are the state of the art buildings delivered by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) for our communities”. Ms Phiri further requested DPWI to take immediate action to address issues raised. Leading the DPWI was Head of Property Management Trading Entity (PMTE) Mr Siza Sibande who acknowledged the concerns raised by the committee and made a commitment that the DPWI will act accordingly to resolve those issues.

The Portfolio committee on Public Works and Infrastructure provides an oversight role into the department's work by evaluating the implementation of the Infrastructure projects against the timeframes, financial performance, and compliance requirements while ensuring value for money. It also oversees the coordination and implementation of the EPWP with regards to job creation and skills development.

