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DPWI MINMEC Highlights Progress and Impact of the Expanded Public Works Programme

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Day two of the DPWI MINMEC meeting placed the spotlight on the continued progress and impact of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), with a detailed performance presentation delivered by the Deputy Director-General, Ms. Carmen Abrahams.

The session brought together key leadership, including Minister Dean Macpherson, the Deputy Minister Sihle Zikalala, Director-General Sfiso Mdakane, MECs, Heads of Department (HODs), Deputy Directors-General (DDGs), and CEOs of public entities. The presentation provided an overview of the strides made in implementing the EPWP and its contribution to job creation and skills development across the country.

Central to the discussion was the critical role of the Public Employment Programme Inter-Ministerial Committee (PEP-IMC), which was highlighted as a key coordinating structure in ensuring the sustainability and effective implementation of the EPWP. The DDG emphasised that strengthened coordination across government departments remains essential in maximising the programme's reach and long-term impact.

Reflecting on the programme's outcomes, Minister Macpherson expressed pride in the progress achieved. While reaffirming that the EPWP is designed to equip participants with practical skills to improve their employment prospects, the Minister noted a promising trend emerging from his engagements with programme's graduates.

He observed that many beneficiaries are increasingly using the skills acquired through the programme to create their own income-generating opportunities, rather than solely seeking formal employment. This shift, he noted, speaks to the programme's broader impact in fostering self-reliance and entrepreneurship.

The Minister commended the EPWP for not only providing skills development opportunities, but also empowering participants to take initiative, explore business ventures, and actively shape their own economic futures.

As discussions continue at MINMEC, the emphasis remains on strengthening collaboration, enhancing programme delivery, and ensuring that the EPWP continues to serve as a catalyst for inclusive economic participation and sustainable livelihoods.

