

## **Public Works Delegation Visit KZN**

Members of the Public Works Portfolio Committee from the National Parliament along with members of the Provincial Legislature recently embarked on a two day learning visit to KwaZulu-Natal to learn more about the success of its Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

The delegates hoped to uncover the elements that make KwaZulu-Natal a leader in the country for EPWP with the aim of taking what they learnt back to their own provinces. Researchers often flock to KwaZulu-Natal as they are keen to learn from the innovations of KwaZulu-Natal and use these as a benchmark to improve their own programmes.

Zibambele was one of the projects visited. Zibambele is a road maintenance project that has won many accolades as the one of the best poverty alleviation projects in the country. Roll-out of Zibambele to other provinces is envisaged in order to create greater employment opportunities for the poverty-stricken in rural areas.

Lulu Mdletshe, Manager for EPWP in the Department of Transport, Manager, gave a presentation to elaborate on the challenges that could be expected and how as the coordinating department in KwaZulu-Natal, the Department of Transport has overcome such challenges. "Zibambele has managed to create 40 000 members and 1200 saving clubs with an amount of R12 million. Our target is to create 2 million full time equivalents," she said.

The delegation then undertook site visits, for example to the construction site of the Molweni School, which promises to school more than 1000 pupils. They also visited members of Siyazenzela on site. Nomthandazo Mapholoba who is a team leader for one of the sites in Maotana briefly mentioned what they do. "We cleared the bushes that were here and now we have started our garden. Seeing members of parliament here renews our motivation to carry on with our work," she said.