



**EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME
CONTRIBUTING TO A NATION AT WORK**

**THIRD QUARTERLY REPORT – YEAR 2
(Containing data and information for the period
1 April to 31 December 2005)**

Financial Year 2005/06

(This narrative should be read in conjunction with Annexures A – F)

1 June 2006

Contents

1	Introduction	3
2	Monitoring and Evaluation	4
3	Project Data for the Fourth Quarter (2004/05)	4
4	Coordination and institutional arrangements.....	6
5	Training.....	7
6	EPWP Partners.....	9
6.1	Involvement of Business and Labour	9
6.2	IDT	10
6.3	DBSA	11
7	Communications	12
8	Summary of Progress per Sector.....	12
8.1	Infrastructure Sector.....	12
8.2	Environmental and Cultural Sector.....	15
8.3	Social Sector.....	16
8.4	Economic Sector	18
9	Challenges and Conclusions.....	19

1 Introduction

This report reflects on the data and programme management issues (such as institution building and capacity building) in the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) for the third quarter of the financial year 2005/06. Data on EPWP projects are submitted by national departments, state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and provinces. The report does not include figures on job creation resulting from infrastructure projects implemented by municipalities through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG). The MIG reporting system (MIG MIS) is still being tested and data on the EPWP indicators from municipalities can only be reported by the Department of Provincial and Local Government (dplg) once this system is fully operational. Limited, but encouraging data on municipal infrastructure and environment and culture projects had been reported, though. The municipal data is captured in Annexures G1-G3.

This report contains both the gross and net job opportunities over the said three month period for public works programmes (PWP's) across the four sectors of the EPWP, i.e. the infrastructure, environment and culture, social and economic sectors. In the infrastructure and environment and culture sectors the focus is on the substitution of labour for machines. The social sector is by nature labour-intensive, while the economic sector focuses on the creation of emerging entrepreneurs. The gross job opportunities are the total job opportunities created on a project, and the net work opportunities are the gross job opportunities less the opportunities which would have resulted had the same work been done using machine-intensive methods.

It should be noted that EPWP data is collected cumulatively from one quarter to another and capped on an annual basis. Job opportunities reported may not necessarily be new ones. A case in point is the Zibambele Road Maintenance Programme in KZN. This programme consists mainly of part-time contractual work and the contracts are renewed annually. Given the need to keep the key performance indicators (KPIs) as simple as possible to ensure that data could be collected in a sustainable way, it is impossible to keep track of individuals obtaining job opportunities on the EPWP. The same person could thus be employed repeatedly. There is thus an inherent weakness in this particular KPI. In addition, some projects cut across financial years, which might result in double-reporting of some work opportunities between the fourth quarter of the previous financial year and the first quarter of the subsequent financial year. To offset these problems, data is also collected on the number of person-years of work created on EPWP projects. The number of person-years of work created is a more reliable indicator than the number of work opportunities created, because it does not have these potential double-reporting problems.

2 Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation framework for the EPWP forms the basis for evaluation studies that have been commissioned. Service providers have commenced in this financial year with conducting of longitudinal studies and cross-sectional surveys, as well as case studies and completion reports. The lessons learned will be fed into project planning and implementation cycles, and will be used to identify the key issues that need attention in subsequent evaluation studies.

Data for monitoring purposes is collected according to a number of indicators in all EPWP projects on a quarterly basis. These indicators have been integrated into existing reporting systems of the various sectors. For example, the existing National Treasury monitoring system is being used to monitor EPWP projects funded through the Provincial Infrastructure Grant (PIG), and the EPWP indicators are being included in the single monitoring system which is being established for the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG). EPWP indicators were also included in Stats SA's Labour Force Survey (LFS).

In an effort to improve data quality, the DPW is conducting on-going capacity-building workshops for reporting bodies across all provinces.

3 Project Data for the Period 1 April – 31 December 2005

All reported projects per sector are included in Annexure F. Data was received from all the provincial infrastructure departments, from some national infrastructure departments, and from all the national Environment and Culture Sector departments (coordinated by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism - DEAT). Project level data, i.e. Home Community Base Care (HCBC) and Early Childhood Development (ECD) site level data, has been received from Social Sector departments in some provinces. The Economic Sector Plan involves venture learnerships and is at the initial stages of expansion.

Every effort is made to check the consistency of data reported. However, responsibility for the validation of the data lies with reporting bodies and the appropriate institutional structures at the various spheres of government. In the absence of unique project identifiers, the data for this reporting period should be viewed and used with circumspection. As mentioned above, detailed data are not yet available on municipal infrastructure projects created through the use of MIG funding. The data that had been received from individual municipalities are captured in Annexures G1-G3. Reporting on infrastructure created by municipalities by using their own funds, as well as reporting on other EPWP sectors at this level, is also lacking. The MIG figures for the reporting period show that the amount of R1,2 billion was committed for EPWP infrastructure projects across the nine provinces. Given the aforesaid, the figures in Annexure F are in all likelihood an underestimate of the total number of work opportunities/person-years of employment created under the EPWP.

Based on the project level data received, at least 149 600 gross work opportunities (i.e. at least 147 640 *net work opportunities*) were created by the end of December 2005, i.e. for the first three quarters of the financial year 2005/06 (see Annexure A). The total wages paid amounted to at least R394.6m. The total number of *net work opportunities* created during the first year of implementation of the EPWP amounted to at least 174 800.

It is estimated that projects that straddle the two financial years had created approximately one-third of the total net work opportunities by the end of the third quarter of 2005-06. At this stage, the assumption is made that about half these work opportunities would straddle the two financial years. Thus, if adding up the total number of NET work opportunities created to date, approximately half the work opportunities on projects that straddle the two financial years should be subtracted. As such, the total number of work opportunities created to date on the EPWP is at least 297 880.

It is important to measure the number of job opportunities added through the EPWP approach, i.e. the value added. The additional employment creation through the use of labour-intensive methods in the infrastructure varies depending on the degree of labour-intensity of the production methods used. Due to the complexity of the issue it should be noted that there is no uniform formula that can be applied across the board to calculate net work opportunities. For example, the average increase in employment creation through the use of labour-intensive methods in Gauteng's programme is 10%, whereas the average increase in employment creation on the Gundo Lashu roads programme in Limpopo is 600%.

The sector break-down of the number of work opportunities for this reporting period shows that most *net work opportunities* were created in the Infrastructure Sector (at least 72 430, with the gross number of work opportunities in this sector being at least 74 420). Wages paid amounted to R216.3m. (At least 109 700 *net work opportunities* were created in the infrastructure sector during the first year of implementation of the EPWP).

In the Environment and Culture Sector almost 62 654 *net work opportunities* were created in the third quarter. Wages paid amounted to R134.9m. The total number of *net work opportunities* created during 2004/05 in this sector were at least 72 700. At least 11 416 *net work opportunities* have been reported in the Social Sector for this reporting period and the wages paid amounted to R42.2m. Data received covers 1 675 HCBC and ECD sites. In the Economic Sector 1 137 net work opportunities were created during this reporting period, with wages paid amounting to R1.2m.

The EPWP's goal is to create work opportunities (coupled with training) for a minimum of one million people (at least 40% women, 30% youth and 2% people with disabilities) in South Africa in the first five years of the programme (i.e. by

2009). A break-down of the data for the three quarters shows that the work opportunities created thus far consist of 53% women, 38% youth and 0.6% people with disabilities.

In the infrastructure and environment and culture sectors most people have been employed as manual workers. These manual workers are employed by contractors, who also employ supervisory staff. Depending on the nature of the project, some skilled artisans are also employed.

The average duration of employment on infrastructure projects is approximately four months, and for environment projects the average duration of employment is approximately six months. These employment duration periods are a function of the nature of the work being carried out. However, in some infrastructure programmes, such as the Zibambele routine road maintenance programme in KwaZulu-Natal, the employment is longer-term in nature (again due to the nature of the work being carried out) – contracts are renewed on an annual basis. In addition, contractors, supervisors and artisans are usually obtaining longer-term employment through EPWP projects, as they move from project to project.

Annexure F shows the geographical location of the projects and the total budget for each. For the first three quarters data was received on 3 654 projects across the infrastructure, environment and culture, social and economic sectors. The majority of infrastructure projects, reported on for this reporting period, were in KZN. At least *32 950 net work opportunities* were created in this sector (see Annexure E2). The highest number of *person-years of work* created across the four sectors of the EPWP during this quarter was also in KZN, namely 11 610 (see Annexure B3).

As stated earlier project level data could not be accessed as yet via the MIG MIS. The limited municipal level reporting shows that 188 projects had been reported in the infrastructure sector and 31 projects in the environment and culture sector (see Annexures G1-G3). A total of at least 19 220 net work opportunities have been created, with wages paid amounting to R42.2m across these two sectors in 17 district municipalities countrywide.

4 Coordination and Institutional Arrangements

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is the national coordinating department for the EPWP. DPW's approach is to create a supportive and enabling framework and environment for the programme to be successfully implemented by government bodies across the Infrastructure, Environment and Culture, Social and Economic Sectors. In order to achieve this, a number of coordinating mechanisms have been established.

A National EPWP Coordinating Forum has been established. All lead sector departments, as well as National Treasury, The Presidency, the Department of Labour (DOL), the dplg, SALGA, DBSA and Independent Development Trust

(IDT), are represented in this forum. In order to facilitate co-ordination between national sector departments and provinces, provincial EPWP coordinators have been invited and now also attend meetings of this forum.

National Sector Coordinating Committees for the Environmental, Social and Infrastructure and Economic sectors track progress made, discuss common challenges and ensure that there is a common approach to training and exit strategies across the sectors.

The *EPWP Unit* in DPW is responsible for day-to-day coordination of the EPWP. The IDT provides support to the EPWP Unit in the form of human resources that have been deployed to assist programme managers.

Provincial EPWP Steering Committees have been established, but not all of them function equally effectively. Provincial EPWP implementation plans set provincial targets for projects and job creation across the various sectors, linked to provincial priorities.

5 Training

As stated in the objectives of the EPWP, training is critical for the successful implementation of the programme. According to the Code of Good Practice for Special Public Works Programmes, as gazetted by the Department of Labour (DOL), it is a requirement that beneficiaries should receive at least 2 days of training out of every 22 days worked. The Guidelines for the Implementation of Labour-Intensive Infrastructure Projects also require that managers of labour-intensive projects be trained in order to build capacity to manage EPWP projects at the required scale. A new training strategy will make provision for hard skills training to be given on EPWP projects.

An EPWP training framework has now been developed, with the intention to provide all implementing bodies with the knowledge and technical skills and information required to implement the EPWP training and to provide clear guidelines on accessing support from DOL and the SETAs. DOL has developed an Operations Manual on life skills training for the use of service providers.

DPW is identifying EPWP projects to be included in DOL's Provincial Implementation Plans (PIPs) for the financial year 2006/07 for funding support through the National Skills Fund (NSF).

The DOL has agreed to expand its database to make provision for the increased demand for courses in the Environment and Culture Sector currently not available on the database. This will assist public bodies to adhere to training requirements for the EPWP.

DOL has also agreed to improve the National Skills Fund Disbursement Information System to ensure that EPWP projects can be identified in order to improve the data on the number of people trained in technical and life skills.

A survey is being done to identify unaccredited service providers, with a view to enable them to acquire the necessary capacity and to add them to the DOL database. This will enable DOL to meet the increased demand for training from the EPWP public bodies. Different training courses and models are used for the various target groups in the different sectors.

Infrastructure Sector

According to the Tender and Design Guidelines for the Infrastructure Sector, the workers in this sector shall receive 10 days of life skills training and on-the-job training related to the project.

Currently DOL is doing a survey of accredited and unaccredited providers against certain criteria for delivering credit-bearing training in order to build capacity and broaden the base of accredited service providers.

DOL has identified 72 Labour Centres to which a computerized database of work-seekers will be rolled out. This development could assist with exit strategies for EPWP beneficiaries whose contracts come to an end.

In partnership with SALGA, the Local Government SETA and the CETA, a training programme for training municipal officials on NQF Level 5 has been established. A training provider has been appointed and this programme had been implemented over the 2005-2006 financial year. More than 700 officials have been trained to date on NQF Level 5 labour-intensive methods of construction. The targeted 1200 officials to be trained by the end of this financial year will most likely be exceeded. A particular focus of this programme is on Project Consolidate Municipalities and those that are participating in the EPWP Contractor Learnership Programme.

Environment and Culture Sector

The Department of Environment and Tourism (DEAT) embarked on a process of recruiting and appointing training lead providers per province in the following fields:

- Tourism Guiding and Hospitality
- Conservation and Environmental education
- Agriculture and horticulture
- Project Management and business skills
- Craft production
- Waste Management and Water reticulation

- Financial Management

DEAT has appointed 17 service providers to assist with coordination and the provision of accredited training in particular environmental skills programmes and learnerships. These service providers will also conduct skills audits and provide SAQA / NQF aligned courses in the wide range of environmental courses.

Social Sector

The focus areas for the Social Sector are Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Home Community-Based Care (HCBC) programmes.

Education Training Development Practice (ETDP) SETA has developed a learnership programme for NQF levels 1, 3 and 4 for ECD, and 4500 learners are on this programme. The Health and Welfare SETA (HWSETA) has developed a learnership programme for HCBC workers at NQF levels 2, 3 and 4, and a skills programme at level 3 and is piloting the latter programme in Limpopo with 600 learners, with funding from the Umsobomvu Fund.

Economic Sector

To date, 120 learners are on EPWP venture learnerships with the CETA. The *New Venture Creation Learnerships (NVCL)* will be implemented as a partnership between the participating public body, the relevant SETA, DPW and the Department of Trade and Industry (dti). Learners graduate with an NQF Level 2 qualification with skills in managing a business, a track record of completing projects or delivering services, a credit record with a high street bank and a financial record.

Learners that enter the EPWP venture learnership will be required to commit themselves to the programme for a period of 2 years. Mentors will also be appointed to mentor the learner. Learners will access working capital and necessary funding for equipment through ABSA.

Other Training Initiatives

The EPWP is aligning its training initiatives with the curriculum of the Community Development Workers (CDWs). Brochures have been developed to facilitate training on EPWP programmes.

6 EPWP Partners

6.1 Involvement of Business and Labour

As was stated in earlier quarterly reports, the Business Trust has committed itself to supporting the EPWP for the coming years through the establishment of a facilitation fund to the value of R100 million over the period March 2005 – March 2010.

The major activities for this quarter were:

- The initiation of field work in the six identified municipalities Expanded Public Works Support Programme (EPWPSP). A Municipal Facilitation Officer (MFO) has been appointed and is operational in each of these municipalities. MIG projects have been identified in each municipality and an analysis undertaken of those that have potential in terms of creating labour intensive jobs.
- The finalization of the addendum to the 2005/6 business plan and the development of the 2006/7 business plan: A considerable amount of time during the quarter was spent on reviewing progress, analyzing the environment, developing an addendum to the 2005/6 business plan and finalizing the second year EPWPSP business plan.
- Furthermore, the support programme appointed external monitoring and evaluation capacity.

Shisaka has appointed a service provider the development of a management information system for municipalities to assist with the provision of EPWP data for quarterly reports.

6.2 The Independent Development Trust (IDT)

The Independent Development Trust (IDT) is the implementing agency for the DPW's EPWP Maintenance of Public Buildings Programme, which aims to create work and training opportunities for the unemployed to address the artisan shortage in the building industry. The organisation also supports the programme through its Social Facilitation Support Unit. This involves community facilitation during the implementation of projects on the EPWP Contractor Learnership projects.

The Facilitation Support Unit has engaged with the following public bodies on the Contractor Learnership Programme:

- Gauteng Department of Housing which entails Ekurhuleni, Mogale City, Randfontein, Johannesburg Metro and Tshwane.
- Mangaung Local Municipality, Free State
- Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport of the Free State;
- The Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL);
- Oliver Tambo District Municipality;
- Chris Hani District Municipality;
- Coega Development Corporation;
- Rustenberg Local Municipality;

- Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport / City of Cape Town on the Klipfontein Corridor Project;
- Department of Public Works of the Eastern Cape; Buffalo City Municipality
- Emalahleni Local Municipality and Nkangala District Municipality
- Mkhanyakude District Municipality
- Ethekwini Municipality
- The Northern Cape Department of Transport Roads and Public Works

6.3 The Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)

The Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) supports various EPWP initiatives in the following four areas:

- Project management and implementation

The DBSA assists various national departments (Public Works, Social Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, and Provincial and Local Government) in building capacity to undertake institutional audits, and to establish systems and frameworks for effectively implementing, monitoring and evaluating projects of the EPWP.

- Local governments

Support is provided to municipalities in undertaking institutional audits and establishing systems for effectively implementing plans and programmes. In addition to public works initiatives, these include integrated development plans (IDPs), the Local Government Network (LGNet), the District Information Management System (DIMS) and the Consolidated Municipal Infrastructure Programme. The organisation also supports training on project management, the review and implementation of IDPs, basic computer skills, and baseline research on the needs of municipalities.

- District Project Management Units (PMUs)

A total of 47 Project Management Units (PMUs) have been set up in the district municipalities specifically to ensure that the MIG is used effectively, that IDPs and public works projects are implemented properly, and that the various programmes are coordinated. In this regard, the DBSA assists with training to identify and prepare projects; to access funds from the MIG and the Development Bank itself, using the IDP as a guide and meeting EPWP criteria; to conduct annual reviews of IDPs efficiently; and to manage projects effectively (e.g. through the acquisition of financial, technical and report-writing skills).

- Social Sector

The Grant Agreement with the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) culminated from months of negotiations between the line departments within the Social Sector and the DBSA. The object of the agreement is to co-finance the undertaking of detailed work on the areas of expansion and required capacities to manage the EPWP in the social sector. This agreement will enable the sector to produce an evidence-based picture of the potential of the sector to meet the EPWP goals as well as the management capacities required for effective implementation.

7 Communications

Media Road-shows were held in the Northern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, the Free State, North West and the Eastern Cape provinces with the Minister and/or Deputy Minister in attendance. These road-shows highlighted EPWP projects across all the sectors and gave the media, national, provincial and local politicians the chance to interact with beneficiaries and local project stakeholders. Valuable coverage of the EPWP was received in various regional and national media.

The EPWP website plays an important role in the EPWP communication strategy. Stakeholders and interested parties can access key EPWP documents and there are links to other sites.

8 Summary of Progress per Sector

8.1 Infrastructure Sector

- Implementation of projects in accordance with the EPWP Guidelines

The EPWP Guidelines were updated for the 2005-06 financial year. The Guidelines are now aligned with the CIDB Contractor Register, as well as the Standards for Uniformity which has come into effect. Furthermore, the window for contractors to complete the required EPWP courses has been extended to accommodate the contractors who have not yet completed these courses. The limited number of contractors who have been trained remains a concern and DPW is working with public bodies to encourage contractors to complete this training.

- Provincial Infrastructure Grant (PIG)

With the commencement of the 2005-06 financial year it is anticipated that compliance of provinces to the Division of Revenue Act (DORA) and the EPWP Guidelines will improve. The Provincial Infrastructure Grant (PIG) is one of the conditional grants to which specific EPWP conditions are attached. These conditions require that provinces using these grants implement their projects in accordance with the EPWP Guidelines. In the previous financial year it was also determined that the business processes for the EPWP need to be improved so

that the auditing process can be more effective in future. DPW is working with the Auditor General, National Treasury and dplg to improve these processes.

- Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG)

The MIG is another conditional grant to which EPWP conditions are attached. With the new financial year for municipalities it is anticipated that the compliance with the EPWP Guidelines will increase. A key constraint for assessing progress made in this regard is the MIG Management Information System which is designed to provide project level monitoring data on the EPWP. While this system is working, tracking progress of individual projects is still difficult, as project information is not yet updated fully beyond the registration phase.

- Housing and the EPWP

The National Department of Housing (NDH) has indicated that they have received reports of 34 projects that will be implemented in accordance with the EPWP Guidelines. Detailed data on these projects have not been received yet and the EPWP Unit is working closely with NDH to obtain more information on these projects and provide support to the relevant developers if required. The Gauteng Department of Housing is also participating in the Vuk'uphile programme and this will give a boost to the implementation of the EPWP in Gauteng.

- DPW EPWP programme

DPW has together with the IDT ensured that additional resources are allocated for implementing the EPWP projects of the department on the maintenance of public buildings. Furthermore the operational procedures of the IDT have also been re-aligned to those of DPW to ensure that the EPWP component will be reported on.

- Participation of State Owned Enterprises (SOEs)

DPW has continued engaging with Transnet and Eskom regarding their participation in the EPWP through their investments in infrastructure. These two SOE's will be dominating infrastructure investments in South Africa in the coming five years.

- Mobilisation of water boards

In recognizing that many water-related infrastructure projects are implemented through water boards, such as Rand and Umgeni Water, DPW has started engaging with these water boards to ensure that they are also participating in and contributing to the EPWP. Training programmes are being conducted with

Umgeni water staff to ensure they are briefed and capacitated to start implementing the EPWP.

- EPWP and sanitation

Of the basic infrastructure targeted in the EPWP, sanitation has in general been implemented in a somewhat different manner than infrastructure such as roads and storm water. A history of a high degree of community involvement exists in this sector and in order to build on this, a somewhat different approach to sanitation delivery under the EPWP is warranted. The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) and the Labour Job Creation Trust initiated a process to ensure that the contribution of the sanitation sector to the EPWP is maximised. At the end of April 2005 a joint conference was held to consult all stakeholders on the sanitation sector. A set of Guidelines on sanitation and job creation to complement the general EPWP Guidelines has been prepared and will be piloted in Limpopo and the North West Province. If this Guide is widely adopted for use by municipalities, the sanitation sector will be able to make a very significant contribution to the EPWP.

- EPWP Contractor Learnership Programme (Vuk'uphile)

The EPWP Contractor Learnership Programme is now called the Vuk'uphile Programme. This name was chosen through a competition among all the learners currently in the programme. Loosely translated as "Creating Opportunities", this Xhosa expression refers to the various opportunities created for learners and workers in the programme.

The Vuk'uphile programme involves both practical work experience through carrying out labour-intensive infrastructure projects funded by the provinces and municipalities, and classroom training funded by the CETA. The learners are also provided with mentoring by mentors appointed by DPW, and with access to credit and bridging finance (through ABSA Bank). At the end of the learnerships the contractors and their supervisors will graduate with NQF-registered qualifications and with the experience and expertise required to successfully tender for the labour-intensive projects which will be put out for tender by the provinces and municipalities on an on-going basis, in accordance with the EPWP guidelines.

The EPWP Unit is in on-going engagements with provinces and municipalities to brief them about the EPWP and to encourage them to participate in these labour-intensive contractor learnerships and Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) have been signed with at least one public body from every province. For this quarter, 234 learnership agreements had been signed by NDPW. These still have to be signed by CETA. This brings the total number of MOAs since implementation of the EPWP to 2175 learnerships. Given the demand for these learnerships DPW has been engaging with the CETA and the DOL to explore ways to significantly

increase funding for this programme. Discussions are underway to increase the total number of learnerships to be implemented over the first five years of the EPWP to 3000.

Currently there are 869 learners in training. Out of the learners that have been selected to date, 36% are female and 68% are below 35 years of age. All the learners are from previously disadvantaged groups.

- Provincial Programmes

Most of the work opportunities created in the sector continue to be generated through provincial programmes, such as Zibambele in KZN and Gundo Lashu in Limpopo. Most of these programmes have continued to grow and a particular challenge for the EPWP is to support provinces with growing, improving and replicating these programmes. The Vuk'uphile programme is largely modelled on Gundo Lashu and is being replicated across the country. Similarly, the EPWP Unit is working closely with the KZN Department of Transport and the National Department of Transport to create guidelines for replicating the Zibambele programme. Zibambele has continued to grow and is now providing employment and income to more than 25 000 individuals. Of these individuals, more than 95% are poor women. Unfortunately the Zivuseni programme in Gauteng is not being continued and will be replaced by a different programme. This has significantly reduced the contribution of Gauteng to the overall number of work opportunities as compared to the previous financial year.

8.2 Environmental and Cultural Sector

The environmental and cultural sector consists of the following departments:

- Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT)
- Science and Technology
- Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF)
- Arts and Culture (DAC)
- Agriculture (NDA)

The sector has clustered its activities into a number of core programmes namely:

- Sustainable Land Based Livelihoods;
- Working for the Coast;
- People and Parks;
- Working for Tourism; and
- Working on Waste.

For the period 1 April – 31 December 2005, Environment and Culture Sector programmes at a national and provincial level have been implemented through 1050 projects. A total of 14 744 person-years of work were created at an actual expenditure of 134.9m. The targeted beneficiaries consisted of 43% youth, 47% women and 1.1% people with disabilities.

The Environmental and Cultural Sector programmes are well established. The continuous focus in the sector is on how these programmes can be expanded, coordinated, integrated and improved in order to ensure increased employment creation and improved environmental outcomes.

In addition, the different departments in the sector have been working on aligning their existing monitoring and evaluation systems to the EPWP requirements to ensure that they are able to report to DPW as a sector. The established Monitoring and Evaluation Subcommittee is in the process of developing an integrated sector reporting system. Agreement was reached that provincial focal departments and persons for coordination of sector commitments will be identified to ensure that proper reporting systems are in place to facilitate appropriate flow of data and information within provinces and local government, as well as national reporting.

The Training and Communication Subcommittees are currently in the process of developing a sector training plan and communication strategy, respectively. Sector departments have embarked on road shows to highlight the role of the EPWP in provincial sector departments and the Nodal Municipalities. Implementing bodies reached a common understanding and agreed on appropriate coordination mechanisms that are needed to facilitate implementation in this sector. The importance of aligning the EPWP with the Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Programme (ISRDP) and the Urban Renewal Programme (URP) was emphasised. Provincial sector implementation plans have been developed in Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Free State, Northern Cape and KZN.

8.3 Social Sector

This sector focuses on the expansion of HCBC programmes and ECD programmes. Both of these are highly labour-intensive and provide enormous opportunities for the creation of work opportunities, given the large needs for these services. Under the leadership of the Department of Social Development (DSD), the Social Sector has produced an EPWP sector plan.

The National EPWP Social Sector Steering Committee is chaired by the DSD and it includes the DPW, senior programme managers for ECD, HCBC and the Community Health Workers (CHW) programme. The role of this committee is to provide strategic guidance to the sector, ratify reports to the Social Cluster, ratify reports from the technical committees and ensure that programme operational plans are aligned to EPWP targets. The steering committee is supported by a number of technical committees that are responsible for specific programme design and management.

Provincial social sector coordination structures have also been established and are functional in the following provinces: Limpopo, Free State, Mpumalanga, KZN and Northern Cape.

The *National Integrated ECD Plan* is completed and repackaged into three components namely, an overall strategy for integrating ECD services, a five year strategic plan and a matrix clarifying the different roles of each department.

There are 5,103 registered ECD sites that are receiving subsidies. The number of sites varies across the nine provinces with KZN and Eastern Cape, having the highest numbers. There is a total of 330 036 children, in the sites that are being supported through the subsidies. The subsidy amounts per child vary across provinces from R2 to R8. The approximate average amount per child is R6. Provinces utilise the subsidies for food, site maintenance, equipment, and in some provinces stipends for ECD practitioners.

The Equitable Share Allocations as stipulated in the MTBPS will further enhance the ECD service for the age group 0-4 as an integral part of the provincial strategic priorities. The Challenge is, however, to ensure that these budgetary allocations are actually utilised for the purpose.

The harmonisation of the HCBC workers in the Departments of Health and Social Development has been finalised. The new generalist worker is now called the Community Care Giver (CCG). The CCG will be an entry point towards a higher level qualification in the sector, e.g. that of a Community Health Worker.

Progress with the Learning Framework

- The learning material for the CCG has been finalised and published
- All required Qualifications for ECD and HCBC have been registered with SAQA
- The National Youth Service HCBC skills programme for CCG funded by Umsobomvu Youth Fund and the Department of health has commenced in Limpopo, Free State and the Western Cape. More than 600 youths will benefit from this programme.
- A nation wide audit of the network of HCBC sites has been completed. The purpose of this audit was to profile the type and coverage of services rendered by these sites and the training requirements by care givers.
- The stipend framework for training has been endorsed by all provinces and this will constitute a temporary income for volunteers.

8.4 Economic Sector

The EPWP Economic Sector aims to assist 3000 sustainable businesses to develop in various sectors over the period 2004/05 – 2008/09, through a programme known as venture learnerships (based on the Sakhasonke Programme managed by the Limpopo Department of Public Works, but the model extends beyond infrastructure into other sectors of emerging enterprise development). This venture learnership programme is a key component of the EPWP economic sector. Other small business development programmes are currently being considered.

Since inception of the venture learnership programme, a total of 170 venture learnerships have been implemented in Limpopo and the Eastern Cape.

Learners are selected to enter the 15 – 24 month venture learnership programme that has both classroom and practical components. In the classroom component, learners are taught business and management skills. For the practical component, public bodies (provinces and municipalities) award contracts to learners, while mentors are appointed to assist learners through coaching to execute projects successfully. In total, learners attend three classroom sessions and will be awarded three projects. SETAs will pay for the classroom training of the learnership. Furthermore, learners can access working capital from ABSA. At the end of the programme learners will have a track record of completed projects, a credit record, a financial record and a NQF Venture Creation Learnership Certificate.

The venture learnership uses the CETA *Construction Contractor Learnership at NQF Level 2* and Services SETA learnerships, *National Certificate in Venture Creation (SMME) at NQF Levels 2 and 4*. The DPW assisted with the development of the *National Certificate in Venture Creation (SMME) at NQF Level 2*, which was registered with SAQA in August 2005.

Venture learnerships will be established across all sectors. Irrespective of the sector, each learner that participates in the venture learnerships will graduate with an NQF Level 2 or 4 qualifications with skills in managing a business, a track record of completing projects or delivering services, a credit record with a high street bank and a financial record.

The DPW has held discussions with various SETAs over the period October – November 2005, to fund the training of the National Certificate in Venture Creation (SMME) at NQF Level 2 or 4. The following SETAs have made in-principle commitments:

- Energy SETA – 15 learnerships
- FoodBev (Food and Beverage SETA) SETA – 15 Learnerships
- W&R SETA (Wholesale and Retail SETA) – 12 learnerships

- Theta (Tourism, Hospitality and Sport Education and Training Authority) – 55 learnerships
- ISETT SETA (Information Systems, Electronics and Telecommunications Technologies Sector Education and Training Authority) – 12 learnerships
- AgriSETA – 15 learnerships

9 Challenges and Conclusions

After the first 18 months of implementation, the EPWP is on course to meet its job creation targets. There is an on-going need for aggressive advocacy and communication to correct the tendency that the EPWP is seen as a Department of Public Works (DPW) programme rather than as a programme of the whole of government. This will assist to intensify efforts to overcome widespread resistance to the use of more labour-intensive methods in the creation of infrastructure. The current EPWP communication initiatives of the DPW, undertaken in conjunction with GCIS are aimed at strengthening awareness of the programme among implementers and beneficiaries.

Several environment and culture sector programmes, and some labour-intensive infrastructure programmes in a number of provinces, such as the Zibambebe programme in KZN and the Gundo Lashu programme in Limpopo, are running successfully, and could be expanded further if more funds could be made available.

Reporting in the social sector has improved significantly. The limited reporting from municipalities on the infrastructure and environment and culture sectors is encouraging. The NDPW has engaged with metros and cities within the South African Cities Network (SACN) with a view to improve reporting at local government level across all sectors from at least the major role players in the short to medium term.