

Environment & Culture Sector: Working for Water.

This programme utilises contracting entities to manage the spread and impact of invasive alien plants in order to contribute to economic empowerment, social equity and ecological integrity.

Environment & Culture Sector: Working for Wetlands:

The Programme is managed by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) on behalf of the Departments of Water and Environmental Affairs (DWEA); Water Affairs (DWA); and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF). The Programme seeks to rehabilitate, protect, and achieve sustainable use of the wetlands. The social benefits provided by the programme include employment, training and enterprise development.

Co-operatives: Autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically controlled enterprise are known as co-operatives (co-ops). Increasingly, government is encouraging emerging entrepreneurs to form co-ops to increase the benefits enterprise development to larger numbers of people instead of encouraging individually-owned enterprises.

Investing in Culture: Is driven from the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) to provide access to skills and markets for entrepreneurs working in the arts and culture sector.

Social Sector: Early Childhood Development (ECD): The Programme was piloted in Limpopo where cooks and gardeners were trained through the school nutrition programme to: (1) empower local women volunteers from being food handlers to service providers as members of co-operatives; and (2) ensure sustainability of these co-operatives after the two-year contract ceases.

Capacitating Training Providers: Aims to 1) increase the number of accredited providers for all EPWP sectors including ABET Facilitation; 2) support emerging providers through the relevant ETQAs, to attain accreditation for frequently allocated EPWP courses; and (3) to establish a resource base for accredited providers who will develop, register and review the accredited courses allocated for EPWP

The Expanded Public Works Programme

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is a second economy programme initially launched in 2004 to create 1 million job opportunities to reduce poverty and unemployment by 2014. This target has been increased to 4.5 million (short and ongoing) job opportunities when the EPWP Phase II was launched in April 2009.

The 4.5 million jobs will be created through special programmes under the four sectors: Environment & Culture Sector; Infrastructure; Social and the newly instituted Non-state Sector. Public bodies from all spheres of government (as part of their mandates and budgets) and the Non-State sector (supported by government incentives), will deliberately optimise the creation of work opportunities through the delivery of public and community services. During this Phase II, Enterprise Development will form part of sector specific programmes and will also enhance service delivery and beneficiary well-being.

Enterprise Development Support

The Enterprise Development component of the EPWP provides support to all EPWP sectors and programmes: Environment & Culture; Infrastructure; Social, and the Non-state. Enterprise development is coordinated by the National Department of public Works which works nationally to provide technical and leadership direction and support to provincial forum responsible for coordinating enterprise development initiatives aligned to EPWP objectives. NDPW works closely with the Department of Trade and Industry (the dti) in developing enterprise related support provided to emerging entrepreneurs.

Programmes Supported by ED

There is a myriad of programmes within the EPWP that have enterprise development component which include:

Infrastructure Sector: Vuk'uphile Contractor Development Programme: Focuses on developing emerging civil and building contractors into robust enterprises with a middle CIDB grading.



Expanded Public Works Programme Enterprise Development

Providing small business support to EPWP Sector Programmes to enhance service delivery and beneficiary well being

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Enterprise Product and Service Offerings

Various enterprise support services are offered to beneficiaries of some EPWP programmes. The support is offered in conjunction with the dti; Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA); provincial enterprise development agencies, the Department of Labour; and SETAs. Services include training on accredited business skills programmes, business related learnerships, access to financial service providers and enterprise diagnostic assessments.

The products and services provided include:

SMME Selection: Enterprise Development assists with developing the criteria for selecting entrepreneurs applying the Department of Labour psychometric model. ED also has a battery of interview assessments which can be used to assess entrepreneurs' competence.

Access to DTI/ SEDA services: The dti supports enterprise development under the EPWP and has signed an MOA to this effect which makes provision for the capturing of all support activities. The dti has provided a R10 Million grant to ED to fund the Vuk'uphile learnership Programme.

Additionally, the dti, through SEDA provides access to services such as company registrations; access to grants for co-operatives and non-accredited business training. Further agreements can be concluded at a provincial level.

Training: EPWP Training Support Unit worked with ED to register the New Venture Creation qualification at NQF Level 2 on the Department of Labour Course Catalogue. Consequently, 29 new courses have been registered which are all accredited.

SMME Performance Assessments:

ED has developed SMME assessment tools. These tools are specific to the built environment, but can be adapted to suit programme needs. The objective of the assessment is determining the following:

- ◇ If SMME's are conducting their businesses in accordance with best practice;
- ◇ To determine if business controls are in place in terms of operational and financial perspective;
- ◇ To provide feedback to SMME's about their performance;
- ◇ To use the outcomes of the assessment to rationalise the SMME development programmes;
- ◇ To build incentives into the programme to reward good performing SMME's

Development of SMME Development Model:

ED provides assistance in developing programme specific SMME programmes. The cost of the development of the model will be borne by the entity implementing the programme.

Guidance on Mentoring Contractors:

ED has experience in costing, structuring of mentorship, contracting etc. Guidance and assistance can be provided.

Access to supplier databases:

ED Unit can assist SMME's to register on Government Departmental supplier databases and the CIDB register in terms of the construction industry.

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