



## FREE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE HOSTS EPWP SUMMIT

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### GEPF

#### 4 Post-Retirement Medical Benefit



When government employees retire, they may qualify for a medical benefit to help to cover their medical aid contributions during retirement.

If you have less than fifteen years of service, you will receive a once-off medical benefit. The amount payable depends on whether you have more or less than 10 years of service.

It is also important to note that this benefit is taxable and is a non-contributory benefit, which means that pensioners are not contributing any money for it.

Please note that to qualify for the medical benefit, you must have been a main member of a recognized medical aid for the last 12 months (without a break) before you retire.

If a pensioner passes away and his or her spouse was a dependant on the medical aid at the date of death, and then becomes the main member, the spouse will qualify for the same subsidy percentage that the pensioner received.

The amount of the medical benefit depends on their length of service:

If you have fifteen or more years (10 years in case of discharge due to ill health) of service, the Government will pay a portion of your monthly medical aid membership for the rest of your life, as long as you remain a principal member of a medical scheme.

Bulletin issued by  
**Communications & Marketing**



The Free State Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (FSDPWI) recently hosted the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Summit in Bloemfontein. The two-day Summit started with the EPWP Awards Ceremony which was officiated by Honorable Premier S.H. Ntombela. The EPWP Awards were aimed at honoring various public bodies in the province who have contributed to the creation of EPWP work opportunities.

In her keynote address, Premier Ntombela commended all implementing bodies for the role they played in creating work opportunities for the poor and unemployed residents of the province. "Through these awards, we honor your contribution to the work of tackling poverty and unemployment in our province. Programmes such as the EPWP assists us to create a better life for the residents of our province," Premier Ntombela said.

She called on participants to use the skills they attain from the EPWP to lift themselves out of poverty.

"Never underestimate the EPWP...use the Programme to attain skills and go out to look for work or even set up small businesses and make a better life for yourselves. Some of the participants who spoke here today provided insight on how the EPWP provided them with skills that assisted them to get formal employment. Such testimonies provide us with an understanding of the impact of the EPWP in our province," Premier Ntombela said.

The EPWP created a total of 62 046 work opportunities in the Free State during the 2021/22 financial year. MEC Kolozi outlined that the key purpose of the summit was to ensure that municipalities and departments are able to meaningfully contribute to the EPWP targets in the province.

"The summit is aimed at engaging all 23 municipalities and 9 provincial implementing departments to deliver on achieving the EPWP targets and to provide political oversight and direction on the coordination and implementation of the EPWP in the Province," she explained.

She pointed out the summit came at a time when municipalities in the province had signed EPWP Protocol Agreements. "The timing

of the Summit is critical for the newly elected political administration within the local sphere of government. I wish to thank leaders from all spheres of government – especially our all Mayors - for signing the protocols...they will help us to move the programme forward. The EPWP Protocol Agreements are designed to ensure a transparent and accountable governance system in driving the EPWP," she said.

She indicated that the summit was a proper platform for all EPWP implementers in the province to find ways to work together to drive the success of the programme. "The summit is vital for all of us – political and administrators – to come up with ways to strengthen the implementation of the EPWP in the province. We must corroborate through our existing budgets and mandates to ensure the success of the programme," she said.

MEC Kolozi reminded delegates that the EPWP was more than just numbers: "The programme is also about promoting human right oriented public service delivery culture which is characterised by the delivery of community beneficial assets and services in our communities".

Officials from DPWI's EPWP Branch who attended the summit include the Deputy Director General (DDG), Ms. Carmen-Joy Abrahams, Chief Director for EPWP Operations, Ms. Pearl Mugerwa, Chief Director for EPWP Infrastructure, Mr. Ignatius Ariyo, the National Programme Coordinator of EPWP, Mr. Lungisani Dladla as well as officials from EPWP Bloemfontein Regional Office. Several EPWP participants from various projects in the Free State also attended the event.

#### Participants Testimonials

One participant – Ms. Maphefo Diphoko said that the EPWP gave her confidence to work with people. "I was part of the EPWP team that was placed at Phillip Sanders Holiday Resort in Bloemfontein where I worked a lot with people. The Programme gave me valuable skills in human interaction and provided me with an understanding of customer services," she said.