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EPWP SOCIAL SECTOR COORDINATORS FORUM STRENGTHENS COLLABORATION AND PROGRAMME DELIVERY

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The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Social Sector Coordinators Forum was held in George, Western Cape from 1 to 3 September 2026, bringing together Social Sector champions and coordinators from national and provincial departments. The three-day forum provided an important platform for stakeholders to engage on key matters affecting the implementation and delivery of the EPWP Social Sector. Discussions focused on sector performance, incentive grants, participant training, participant wages, reporting, monitoring and evaluation, as well as enterprise development. The meeting was chaired by Advocate Samuel Maifadi, who officially opened the forum and welcomed all attendees.

In his opening remarks, he emphasised the importance of strengthening coordination among stakeholders to address implementation challenges, share best practices and improve the overall delivery and impact of the EPWP Social Sector programme. As part of the programme, Ms Sanny Maluleka, Manager responsible for the EPWP Social Sector, presented an overview of the sector's performance. She reported that provincial departments within the sector had created 56 178 work opportunities, while municipalities had created 24 834 work opportunities.

Municipalities have demonstrated strong performance, achieving 61% of their sector targets. This highlights the continued contribution of local government to the implementation and delivery of the EPWP Social Sector. The forum also explored opportunities to leverage digital skills within the Social Sector. Attendees discussed ways of incorporating digital skills development into the programme to better prepare EPWP participants for opportunities beyond temporary employment.

In closing the forum, Adv Maifadi highlighted key inputs and presentations made during the three-day engagement, including a presentation by Dr Nziyane, Head of the Home-Based Care Programme, on the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) initiative. The RPL initiative is supported by the Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority (HWSETA) and seeks to recognise the knowledge and practical experience gained by Community Caregivers who have spent years working in the community care field. Through the programme, participants can have their existing knowledge and experience formally assessed towards obtaining a recognised qualification at NQF Level 4.

The initiative targets 1 000 caregivers per annum, providing an important opportunity for participants to formalise their skills, strengthen their career prospects and improve their opportunities for sustainable livelihoods. Another key area of discussion was enterprise development, stakeholders shared experiences and explored how the sector could learn from one another and strengthen support mechanisms that enable EPWP participants to transition from temporary work opportunities into sustainable livelihoods and entrepreneurial activities.



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