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EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME ENGAGES WITH INTERNATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

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The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI), through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), has shared South Africa's experience in creating employment through public investment at an International Labour Organisation (ILO) course titled Creating Jobs through Public Investment: Lessons from Practice and Policy, taking place in Italy in October 2026.

The presentation was delivered by EPWP Deputy Director-General, Ms Carmen-Joy Abrahams, who outlined the programme's evolution, implementation challenges and lessons learned since its establishment in 2004.

The course brings together delegates from various countries, including the Philippines, Syria, Iraq, Indonesia, Uganda, Tunisia, Vietnam, Madagascar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Cameroon, to exchange experiences and learn from different approaches to designing and implementing Public Employment Programmes (PEPs).

Ms Abrahams highlighted the EPWP's contribution to temporary job creation, poverty alleviation, skills development and service delivery. She also emphasised the importance of effective government coordination, adequate funding, monitoring and evaluation, and partnerships in strengthening programme implementation.

The presentation identified opportunities to improve participant verification through biometric technology and artificial intelligence, expand work opportunities through nature-based solutions and climate adaptation, and strengthen private-sector partnerships for training and job placement.

South Africa's participation provides an opportunity to share practical lessons from the EPWP while learning from other countries' experiences in using public investment to create jobs and promote sustainable livelihoods.





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