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Potential for sustainable EPWP interventions: Bojanala Platinum District Municipality

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In a new series of articles, we will explore the possibilities for sustainable Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) expansion in the different district municipalities, taking into account the unique characteristics of each area.

Bojanala Platinum District Municipality, spanning 18 333 km² in North West Province, is comprised of five local municipalities—Kgetlengrivier (NW374), Madibeng (NW372), Moses Kotane (NW375), Moretele (NW371), and Rustenburg (NW373). Cantered in Rustenburg and bordering key regions like Waterberg and the City of Tshwane, Bojanala boasts a strong economic foundation in mining (30-35%) along with community services, finance, and trade. The EPWP presents an opportunity to drive growth across this diverse district, targeting sector-specific initiatives that align with the economic strengths and unique characteristics of each local municipality.

The Integrated Development Plans of the local municipalities in the district reflect needs relating to water and sanitation, roads and storm water, local economic development, land and housing, as well as institutional, and sustainable rural development. There is thus space for established EPWP programmes relating to access to clean water and improved sanitation facilities, the construction and maintenance of roads and storm water systems, land development, sustainable resource management, as well as enterprise development initiatives.

Rustenburg Local Municipality is the most populous and fastest-growing area in the province where the EPWP can tap into the town's thriving mining and trade sectors. By supporting skills development in mining-related trades and community services, the EPWP has potential to create sustainable employment in Rustenburg's rapidly expanding economy.



Various EPWP work opportunities could support mining operations, while fostering sustainable development within mining communities. Key initiatives include environmental rehabilitation projects, such as

the restoration of abandoned mines through soil treatment and vegetation, recycling and waste management, and water resource monitoring to prevent contamination. Community infrastructure development can also benefit from EPWP involvement, with participants maintaining access roads and upgrading local facilities like schools and housing. To support ongoing mining operations, EPWP workers could assist with tasks like vegetation control, hazard inspections, and waste management. Skills development programs further strengthen community resilience by training members in entry-level mining roles, safety practices, and enterprise skills relevant to small-scale mining or service-related businesses. Public health initiatives would help address health risks associated with mining, promoting wellness and occupational health awareness.

Key initiatives with regard to the trade sector may include upgrading market infrastructure to benefit informal traders, providing training in retail and entrepreneurship skills, and promoting light manufacturing activities that produce goods for local sale. Tourism-related trade may be enhanced through supporting the production of local crafts and improving access to digital trade platforms.

Moretele Local Municipality, located at the junction of four provinces and named after the Moretele River, is the smallest municipality in Bojanala. EPWP initiatives here could focus on local infrastructure to support Moretele's strategic position as a regional connector and create environmental projects along the river.



Moses Kotane Local Municipality, covering one-third of the district's land, lies within a prominent tourism and mining belt and includes notable sites like the Pilanesberg and Sun City. Here, the EPWP can foster job creation by focusing on

tourism services, environmental initiatives, and agriculture, which align with the area's diverse economy. The EPWP has a long history of such interventions.

Madibeng Local Municipality, positioned between the Magaliesberg and Witwatersrand, benefits from proximity to major hubs and is home to popular tourist spots like Hartbeespoort Dam. The EPWP could leverage Madibeng's mining, manufacturing, agriculture, and tourism sectors by supporting tourism services, conservation projects, and skills development in manufacturing and mining. Such initiatives would promote sustainable growth and employment for the community.