

# KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT BULLETIN

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## Potential for sustainable EPWP interventions: John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality

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The John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality (JTGDM) situated in the northern part of the Northern Cape Province and bordering Botswana, embodies unique possibilities for the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) intervention. This District Municipality includes the Ga-Segonyana, Gamagara, and Joe Morolong Local Municipalities. It encompasses 186 towns and settlements, predominantly comprising villages. Its rich history is marked by agriculture and mining with a significant potential for economic diversification, especially in tourism and industrial growth.



### Ga-Segonyana Local Municipality

was established in 2000 through the amalgamation of the Kuruman and Mothibistad municipalities. The municipality covers an area of 4 495 km<sup>2</sup>, featuring key towns such as Bankhara-Bodulong, Kuruman, and Mothibistad. The municipality's economy primarily revolves around mining and agriculture, sectors that are ripe for leveraging the efforts to create work opportunities and enhance skills development within local communities.



### Gamagara Local Municipality

This municipality spans an area of 2 648 km<sup>2</sup> and is strategically located along the N14 which is National Road that runs from Northern Cape to Gauteng. This municipality includes towns like Kathu, Deben, and Olifantshoek. Kathu is notable for housing the world's largest open-cast iron ore mine and a camel thorn tree forest, which has received National Heritage status, highlighting the area's rich natural and economic resources. The local economy is primarily driven by mining, game farming, and business services.



### Joe Morolong Local Municipality

This is the largest of the three local municipalities within the district which covers an extensive area of 20,180 km<sup>2</sup> and is characterized by a predominantly rural landscape and untouched land. Located approximately 24 km northeast of Kuruman, this municipality includes towns such as Hotazel, Santoy, and Van Zylsrus. Despite facing high unemployment rates, the municipality's rich natural resources present significant



opportunities for ecotourism and conservation projects. The EPWP could leverage these resources to create jobs and develop skills among residents. The EPWP can significantly support the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) priorities of these municipalities by providing job opportunities and enhancing local capacity. Through labour-intensive projects, EPWP can assist with water and sanitation infrastructure, roads and transport maintenance, local economic development, environmental conservation, and disaster management. Additionally, EPWP's initiatives in integrated human settlements and health promotion align with the stated IDP goals, enabling community members to gain valuable skills while addressing critical needs like housing, healthcare, and climate resilience.

EPWP initiatives in JTGDM could be pivotal in promoting economic growth tailored to local needs. By offering skills training in small-scale mining and iron-ore processing, EPWP could drive mining sector expansion and create sustainable jobs. In agriculture, EPWP projects could focus on developing agro-processing facilities and water management practices to boost local productivity. Supporting tourism through EPWP roles in infrastructure development, cultural site management, and guiding services would help unlock the district's tourism potential. EPWP projects in renewable energy,

particularly solar, would foster employment and provide sustainable energy sources. Furthermore,

Infrastructure development in roads, water, and digital access through EPWP can enhance

connectivity and access to

services. Finally, small business and entrepreneurial training under EPWP would empower residents with the skills to participate meaningfully in the local economy.



The potential for the Expanded Public Works Programme in JTGDM and its constituent local municipalities is vast. By harnessing the unique economic characteristics of Ga-Segonyana, Gamagara, and Joe Morolong, the EPWP will not only address issues such as unemployment and skills development but also foster sustainable economic growth and community resilience in this diverse and resource-rich area.

