

# EPWP Non-State Sector in Partnership with Communities

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Non-State Sector (NSS) was established in 2009 as part of the EPWP Phase 2. The Non-State Sector model is an innovative approach developed by Government to mobilise for the establishment of partnerships with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

The purpose of the partnership is to offer NGOs a wage subsidy for the unemployed as a catalyst to increase the creation of work opportunities in communities.

Two programmes exist in the Non-State Sector, namely: The institutionally-based, which is referred to as the Non-State Sector NGO Programme managed by the Department of Public Works; and the area-based, which is referred to as the Community Work Programme (CWP) and is institutionalised at the Department of Cooperative Governance.



The Non-State Sector NGO programme establishes relationships with non-state entities to expand community projects that have the potential to employ large numbers of people. These non-state entities are Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Community-based Organisations (CBOs) and Faith-based Organisations (FBOs).

The non-state entities are contracted for a year in the EPWP Non-State Sector and are expected to become an extension of Government in the implementation of service delivery to locally-based communities. The partnership with NGOs is intended to ensure that there is a broadened



reach of services provided by NGOs in communities. Furthermore, the EPWP Non-State Sector wage subsidy encourages NGO implementers to engage as many poor and unemployed people as possible in work opportunities within their local communities.



This wage subsidy is also utilised by NGOs to recruit unemployed people in the following substantial services:

- **Cleaning and maintaining public spaces in under-served and under-resourced communities**
- **Growing food that increases food security for the most vulnerable in society**
- **Caring for children, the elderly, the sick and the vulnerable**
- **Small-scale subsistence farming**
- **Sport and recreation programmes for the youth**
- **Improving the infrastructure of public facilities such as schools, community centres, sports grounds, clinics, parks, graveyards – to name just a few.**

In the 2013/14 financial year, the Non-State Sector NGO programme has set a national target to create 48 360 work opportunities. The sector further focuses on creating work opportunities for 55% of women, 40% of youth and 2% of people with disabilities. Government has further noted that partnerships established in the EPWP Non-State Sector have led NGOs to further expand their services and confidently approach private sponsors to collaborate with them.

Over and above opportunities of expansion and sponsorship, Non-State Sector NGOs such as Itekeng Community Centre in the North West Province and Joint Education Project in the Limpopo Province have undertaken the role of mentoring newly-established NGOs. The purpose of the mentorship and



incubation support provided by Itekeng Community Centre and Joint Education Project is to strengthen the management of newly-established NGOs so that these organisations can in the coming years apply to participate in the Non-State Sector programme. The above points prove that the Non-State Sector is a programme that assists NGOs to develop a culture of learning how to create work opportunities that are sustainable for people who are locally-based, through community-based projects.

**For more information about the EPWP Non-State Sector,  
please visit the EPWP website on:  
[www.epwp.gov.za](http://www.epwp.gov.za)**



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**EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME**