

Advertorial

Expanded Public Works Programme: A Government Initiative to Fight Poverty and Unemployment

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is an important initiative of the South African Government, led by the Department of Public Works (DPW), closely aligned with Government's strategy to alleviate poverty and unemployment by providing work opportunities and training for unemployed people. The aim of the Programme remains to create 4.5 million work opportunities for the poor and unemployed (at least 40% women, 30% youth and 2% disabled) in South Africa over a five-year period (2009-2014).



The Programme will be implemented through four sectors:



- **INFRASTRUCTURE:** Increasing the labour intensity of Government-funded infrastructure projects
- **ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE SECTOR:** Creating work opportunities in public environmental programmes (eg Working for Water, Working on Fire, Waste Collection Management and Working on Wetlands)
- **SOCIAL:** Creating work opportunities in public social programmes (eg Home Community-based Care and Early Childhood Development)
- **NON-STATE SECTOR:** Government support of Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs), Community-based Organisations (CBOs), Faith-based Organisations (FBOs) and communities to directly participate in modelling activities and projects in their areas that can create work opportunities



All public bodies at National, Provincial and Local Government level are required to ensure the use of direct expenditure towards goods and services that create additional work opportunities for unemployed individuals, primarily by using labour-intensive methods and increased skills.

To date, over 2 million work opportunities have been created out of the 4.5 million since the launch of the EPWP Second Phase in 2009, positioning the Programme as one of the key catalysts in Government's outcome to create jobs and contribute to the Millennium Development Goals of halving unemployment by 2014.

Training

Once relevant public bodies have identified suitable EPWP projects, the communities in the area are made aware of existing work opportunities. The beneficiaries recruited into the EPWP projects receive training, coupled with full payment at a daily wage rate for the time spent on training. These training opportunities range from job training to formal accredited skills programmes (including learnerships).

Through the EPWP, the South African Government shows its commitment to uplifting all communities.



public works

Department:
Public Works
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME