



public works

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# 6 million work opportunities by 2019

By Lesego Moretlwe

**The National Department of Public Works provide the lead into the implementation of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Phase 3 towards achieving its target of creating 6 million work opportunities by 2019.**

With R150 billion allocated to the implementation of the Expanded Public Works (EPWP) over the next 5 years (2014/15 – 2018/19) by all spheres of government, the National Department of Public Works (NDPW) hosted the two day EPWP summit at Saint George hotel, Gauteng on 27 – 28 November 2014.

The Summit was hosted under the theme **“EPWP Phase 3: Towards increased community participation and developmental impact.”**

**The objectives of the 2014 Summit were as follows:**

- Accelerate the implementation of EPWP by all implementing public bodies
- Improve the delivery of EPWP work opportunities

- Discuss the roll out plan of the EPWP Phase 3 and implementation by all public bodies
- Report on the EPWP delivery progress since the 2012 summit
- Discuss how the Programme will operationalise the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on Public Employment Programme

During his address to the delegates during the first day of the Summit, the Deputy Minister of Public Works, Jeremy Cronin emphasised the importance of the EPWP as a government poverty alleviation initiative since 2004 which must sought to enhance a better balance between provision of work opportunities and headcounts.

The Deputy Minister has also highlighted the pivotal role which the country plays in implementing the Public Employment Programme, s (PEPs) and their significant impact in alleviating poverty and unemployment as well as making a significant difference where the EPWP projects are implemented.

**“ South Africa has been a global pioneer in applying PEPs on scale to environmental services – Working for Water (WfW), Working on Fire, Working for Wetlands, People & Parks. The WfW has cleared over 2 million hectares of alien invasive plants, and prevented loss of 71% of grazing. Also connected to Eco-Furniture Programme – using wood from alien invasives – 500,000 school desks for disadvantaged schools by end of 14/15 financial year, Working on Fire in 2007/2008 saved the forestry industry alone R3,7 billion on a budget of R123 million ”**  
the Deputy Minister concluded.

The Programme has achieved over 5 million work opportunities in the past 10 years, and the third phase of the EPWP Phase 3 which was launched by the State President Jacob Zuma is aimed to create 6 million work opportunities by 2019.

**The EPWP Phase 3 introduced the universal principles in an effort to provide uniformity in its implementation as follows:**

1. Selection of participants is based on a transparent and fair manner
2. Compliance with the EPWP minimum wage and employment conditions in accordance with the Ministerial Determination and Code of Good Practise
3. Services rendered and/or assets created have an impact on the target communities
4. Projects implemented meet the minimum labour-intensity set for each sector or sub-programme

Among the delegates who attended the EPWP summit were Premier of Gauteng, Honourable David Makhura, MECs, Executive Mayors of different municipalities and EPWP lead sector departments.

In his closing remarks, Minister Nxesi urged all implementers of the EPWP to work together in ensuring that the Programme’s mandate of alleviating poverty and unemployment through the provision of work opportunities is maximised.

“As we move forward with the implementation of the EPWP Phase 3, we will rise to even greater heights, minister Nxesi concluded.

**The following are the resolutions adopted during the 4th EPWP Summit**

1. The Summit notes progress made in signing of protocols for EPWP phase 3. The Summit resolves that all protocols should be signed by the 30th June 2015. Progress on implementation of protocols agreements should be monitored and sent to municipal councils on a quarterly basis.
2. The Summit notes progress made on development of EPWP municipal policies. The Summit resolves that all EPWP municipal policies should be endorsed by 30th June 2015. The National Department of Public Works will provide technical support to Municipalities in this regard.
3. The Summit notes the progress made in appointing dedicated officials by municipalities at appropriate level of seniority for EPWP. The Summit resolves that all spheres of government should ensure that there is dedicated capacity to coordinate and implement EPWP.
4. The Summit notes progress made in the establishment of District Forums and Summit resolves that EPWP district forums or similar structures should meet on a regular basis, at least quarterly.
5. The Summit notes the efforts made by municipalities in ensuring proper record management on their EPWP projects to comply with audit requirements of the Auditor General’s Office. The Summit resolves that all public bodies should continue to ensure that there is proper record management for EPWP projects. The National Department of Public Works undertakes to develop an appropriate Management Information System for EPWP phase 3 by 30th June 2015.
6. The Summit resolves that municipalities should continue to prioritise EPWP in their Integrated Development Plans.
  7. The Summit resolves that the principles of EPWP phase 3 should be applied during the implementation of EPWP projects. The concept of Sustainable Livelihoods should be promoted.
  8. The Summit resolves that the National Department of Public Works and all lead sector departments should continue to liaise with relevant stakeholders to source funding for training and ensure that quality training is provided to EPWP beneficiaries. Lead sector departments should encourage Public bodies to set aside part of their budgets to fund training of participants on their projects.
9. The Summit resolves that the National Department of Public Works and all lead sector departments should continue to provide technical support to all spheres of government to promote the implementation of the EPWP in the use of labour-intensive methods, promotion of community involvement, sustainable livelihoods, and convergence.
10. The Summit resolves that the National Department of Public Works will continue to strengthen the coordination between municipalities, NPOs and implementing agents so as to promote the implementation of the Non-State Sector.





# Celebrating excellence and job creation: Minister Nxesi

By Michael Mokoerna



“The reason we are gathered here tonight (26 November 2014) is to celebrate excellence and acknowledge the successes and collective and individual efforts of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)”

With this powerful statement, the Minister of the National Department of Public Works (NDPW) TW Nxesi opened the 4th annual Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Kamoso Awards that were held in November 2014 at the Saint George Conference Centre in Gauteng.

He said that the work of the public bodies that are implementing EPWP had assisted the Government to create more than 1,7 Million Work Opportunities in the 2013/14 financial year.

Minister Nxesi urged the winners and all participants of the Kamoso Awards to continue with their efforts to work with the Government to achieve the targets of creating over 6 Million Work Opportunities by 2019.

Describing the importance of EPWP as a Government programme to eradicate

the Third Phase of EPWP,” he explained. Minister Nxesi also urged all Government Departments, Municipalities, and all entities of the State to work together to ensure that EPWP reached its target.

He added that the theme for the 2014 EPWP Summit was EPWP Phase 3: Towards increased community participation and developmental impact”.

He said that although the target for the Third Phase of EPWP was to create over 6 Million Work Opportunities by 2019, delegates had to note that the programme was beyond the issue of numbers.

“In Phase 3 of EPWP, we seek to also improve the quality and the developmental impact of the EPWP projects. We must emphasise training for our participants in order for them to earn a living. We must pay greater attention to the quality of the services that are provided and the new assets and facilities created in our communities,” he explained.

He added that another key aspect of EPWP should be facilitating grater community participation.

Minister Nxesi said that all two-day EPWP Summit also had to interrogate why it was failing to meet its target in the employment of people with disability.

He wished all delegates well for the event.

## “your hard work and creativity has paid off”

Addressing close to a thousand guests who gathered at the venue, Nxesi said commended the hard work done by the EPWP implementers and those of the officials in his department for placing EPWP at the heart of the fight against poverty and unemployment. He told the winners of the prestigious Kamoso Awards that “your hard work and creativity has paid off”.

“You have been justifiably honoured by your peers. By recognising excellence in the work of individuals and organisations, we also raise the bar and we inspire others to emulate their examples,” Nxesi added.

poverty through the creation of work opportunities for the poor, Minister Nxesi quoted the American Civil Rights leader Dr Martin Luther King Junior.

“All labour that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence”

The Minister then turned to talk more about the EPWP Summit.

“The objectives of the EPWP Summit are to report on the progress in the implementation the 2012 Summit Resolutions. Secondly to accelerate and improve the implementation of EPWP by all public bodies and finally to introduce



# Provinces shine bright at prestigious 2014 EPWP Kamoso Awards

By Michael Mokoena

THE KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and Gauteng Provinces were the bright stars of the prestigious 2014 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Kamoso Awards Ceremony as they walked away with most of the awards in the event.

The high-level awards were held in November at the Saint George Hotel and Conference Centre, located outside Pretoria.

The exciting award ceremony saw KwaZulu-Natal taking home with them eight awards with Mpumalanga following on its heels with six awards and Gauteng managing to net five awards.

The Kamoso Awards were handed out by the Minister of the National Department of Public Works (NDPW) TW Nxesi and the Deputy Minister of the Department Jeremy Cronin.

The audience, which included high ranking Government leaders and representatives of the public sector bodies that implement EPWP throughout the country, were kept on the edge of their seats as the Programme

Director Mr Thulani Ntombela announcing the finalists of each of the 29 award categories.

The first award for the evening – the Best Province in the Infrastructure Sector – went to the KwaZulu Natal Province.

This opened the floodgates for the Province as the awards kept coming in, which included the Best Innovative Project: NPO.

Commenting after her Province's good performance at the event, a senior manager for EPWP in the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport Lulu Mdletshe said that they were inspired by the Province's Growth and Development Strategy which prioritised the creation of work opportunities.

**“We strive to use our budget to create employment while delivering assets and services to our communities,” Mdletshe said.**

She added that the Province had a plethora of EPWP projects that were employing huge numbers of people including the Zimbabwe programme, which employs more than 40 000 people, mostly, women headed households.

The Mpumalanga Province which won most awards in the 2013 Kamoso Awards did not disappoint as it made its presence felt with the Best Local Municipality (Infrastructure Sector) and the Best Innovative Social Sector Project.





She pointed out that her Department had created a number of work opportunities in the social sector:

“We feel that we’ve trained a lot of our participants and even exited them into careers. We’ve trained a lot of auxiliary social workers, auxiliary nurses or staff nurses and educators,” Matshavha said.



She added that the Gauteng Department of Sports and Department of Community Safety had just joined her sector.

“With these two departments on board, we know that we will win more awards at next year’s Kamoso Awards. That is our commitment!” Matshavha added.

The Head of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport in Mpumalanga Province Mr KM Mohlasedi pointed out that the six awards were a reflection of the hard work by the department’s officials to prioritise EPWP.

“The awards are an indication that the hard work by our people is recognised and this is an indication that Mpumalanga is taking EPWP seriously. Our intention is to do better going forwards. We want to achieve more for the benefit of our people,” Mr Mohlase added.

He praised all the winners of the awards and said that the Mpumalanga Province will continue to improve its performance on EPWP.

Among some of the awards that Gauteng Province won includes the Best Social Sector Implementing Department.

“Apart from the five awards we won here today, we have the Best Province Social Sector for three years in succession. We are over the moon! We feel that we are performing,” a senior official in the Gauteng Department of Health Miriam Matshavha said.

# Limpopo hosted Provincial Kamoso Awards

By Kgomoitso Mathuloe



“Our effort to transform the government continues to occupy our central focus. As the coalface of service delivery, we are moving ahead to construct a capable responsive government and to attack poverty and economic marginalization in order to restore public confidence.”

This was said by the MEC of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure Mr Jeremiah Ndou when delivering a keynote address at the provincial awards ceremony held at St Marco hall in Polokwane on 6 November 2014.

The aim of the awards ceremony was to reward and honour public bodies in Limpopo for the successful implementation of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). Addressing more than 300 guests, MEC Ndou said that EPWP Kamoso Awards play a very important role as they aim to mobilize implementers of the EPWP to increase their efforts in making

a socio economic impact among communities and individual EPWP participants.

He further urged municipalities to be steadfast and strive towards contributing to the reduction of unemployment especially amongst the youth, women and people with disabilities.

The MEC Ndou concluded by calling upon all executive mayors, mayors and technical managers to commit themselves to participate actively in the implementation of the EPWP Phase 3 so that they ensure that implementation is done accordingly.

Finalists for the provincial awards were entered to compete in the National Kamoso awards.



# Mpumalanga hosts 2014 EPWP Provincial Kamoso Awards

By Michael Mokoena



“THE BEAUTIFUL work done by Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants has made us proud today! You (EPWP participants) have brought us together here to celebrate and honour this wonderful work. Your work helps us move South Africa forward. We are proud of you!”

This is how the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport Dumisile Nhlengethwa opened the EPWP Provincial Kamoso Awards that were held on 31 October at Lillian Ngoyi Hall in Secunda.

Addressing EPWP participants from across the Province, Nhlengethwa said that the awards were “a platform to recognise and reward excellence” in the government’s fight against poverty, unemployment and inequality in the Province.

Nhlengethwa pointed out that the Mpumalanga Government, under the leadership of Premier David Mabuza, “is determined to reach its target of creating 300 000 EPWP work opportunities by 2019”.

“The Third Phase of EPWP has set a target of creating 6 million work opportunities by 2019, more than 300 000 of those work opportunities will come from this province! Premier Mabuza has

reiterated that EPWP is a lead flagship Government Programme to tackle poverty, unemployment and inequality in our society,” she said.

His statement brought cheers and the clapping of hands from the hundreds of EPWP participants who were at the event.

“We must however focus on turning these work opportunities into sustainable jobs. We must expand our scope of EPWP in order to effectively deal with poverty. We must also keep our participants longer in these programmes,” Nhlengethwa added.

She added that as the Provincial Government will work hard to involve communities in the implementation of the Third Phase of EPWP.

The Executive Mayor of Govan Mbeki Local Municipality, Lindi Masina said that EPWP had improved the lives of the people of her municipality.

The successful ceremony was attended by senior government leaders in the Province. The attendees were entertained and inspired by the electrifying performance of the gospel group called Masibuyele Ku Jehova.

**“ ... Your work helps us move South Africa forward. We are proud of you!”**



By Michael Mokoena

# EPWP – Among the best public works programme in the world: Vietnam

The success of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) in changing the lives of South Africans for the better through creating work opportunities for poor is receiving international acknowledgement as Asian countries such as Vietnam are seriously considering adopting and implementing a similar Public Employment Programme (PEP). On 1 December 2014, a high-level Vietnam delegation led by the country's Ambassador to South Africa, Mr Le Huy Haong held talks with senior officials of the National Department of Public Works (NDPW) at the NDPW's Central Government Office (CGO) in Pretoria about possibly adopting and implementing EPWP in their own country.

The talks were led by Ambassador Haong and the EPWP's Deputy Director General Stanley Henderson.

"We would like to express our high appreciation for the excellent presentation that you (Mr Henderson) and your colleagues have delivered. We are learning from your successful EPWP. We hope that we will have the opportunity to welcome you and your founder team to share more with us on this Programme so we can be able to successfully develop this set of programmes in Vietnam," Ambassador Haong said.

The Ambassador and his team are on a multinational study tour to learn about Public Employment Programmes (PEPs) and how best to implement these programmes in Vietnam. He said that South Africa was one of the best case studies on how to effectively and successfully implement public works programme.

Mr Henderson said that the NDPW would be pleased and honoured to share its 10 years of experience in EPWP with Vietnam and other countries that needed assistance in the setting up and implementing public works programme. "We are passionate about what we are doing. We would like the poor people to benefit from this programme, not only

in the African continent but wherever this programme takes form. We will be pleased to work with you in implementing this programme," Mr Henderson said.



In 2013, the Vietnam government issued a revised law on employment which will be enacted from January 2015. "Public employment is, for the first time, specified in this law to provide temporary paid work generated through the implementation of state funded projects/activities for social-economic development in communes, wards and towns," Ambassador Haong said.



He explained that this law stipulated that state funded infrastructure (programmes) on agriculture production, environment protection, climate change adaptation, public structures should apply public employment practices.

"The prioritised target groups for public employment work include the ethnic minorities, the poor, uneducated and underemployed men and women," Ambassador Huy Haong added.

The Vietnamese delegation raised a number of key questions about the implementation of public works programme including the issue of labour

conditions for participants in EPWP; the recruitment and the payment of the wages of EPWP participants; the physical implementation of the projects at local level as well as the monitoring and evaluation processes.

Responding to the list of the questions, Mr Henderson explained that "the implementation of the programme remains the responsibility of the implementing government departments and municipalities that receive the allocations from National Treasury".

"They are responsible for recruiting the workers and paying them. NDPW as a coordinating department is responsible for the collection of the data, the portfolio of evidence and the attendance registers," Henderson explained.

He added that with regard to occupational health and safety issues, no worker in South Africa can be exploited or be exposed to working condition that is in violation to the laws that govern labour in the country.

The Chief Director of EPWP Infrastructure Sector Ignatius Ariyo clarified that the issue of work injuries in EPWP was covered by the EPWP Ministerial Determination.

"If an EPWP participant is injured the government entity that is implementing that project must compensate that particular person. In the case of that participant being hired by a contractor or a public body, the government entity responsible for that contract is responsible for compensating that injured participant," Ariyo said.

He added that it was vital for the Vietnamese delegation to involve key Government leaders, including politicians when implementing public work programme.

The Vietnamese delegation spent a few days with the Department going through all sectors of EPWP in order to better understand it. They expressed confidence in EPWP as it is being practiced in South Africa.



# EPWP Participants get permanent jobs

By Michael Mokoena



A TOTAL of 60 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants at the Overstrand Municipality in Hermanus in the Western Cape have permanently been employed by the municipality. The municipality's Chief of Fire and Rescue Unit Lester Smith made the announcement at the municipality's EPWP Day on 29 October 2014 at Mount Pleasant Moffat Hall in Hermanus.

"I'm proud to announce that on 1 December 2014 about 30 of the EPWP beneficiaries who are working in our Fire and Rescue unit will have a permanent work as fire fighters," he said to cheers from the crowd.

He further stated that an additional 30 EPWP participants in the municipality's Law Enforcement and Traffic units will also be employed permanently, which will bring the number of EPWP participants permanently employed at the municipality to 60.

The event was attended by the EPWP provincial Coordinator in the Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works, Cybil Muller as well as the senior officials from the Municipality including the Executive Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthre as well as the Economic Development Director Solomzi Madikane.

During his presentation, Madikane said that the municipality was committed to performing even better in the implementation of the EPWP Phase 3.

"Since we started implementing EPWP at the municipality in 2012, we've continuously performed beyond our targets. We were given a responsibility to create 945 work opportunities between 2009 and 2014 and we overachieved on that target by creating 2372 work opportunities, that is an over-performance of 1427 work opportunities," he explained.

He added that within the same period (2009 to 2014) the municipality also surpassed its target of 340 Full Time Equivalent Employment (FTE) and instead created 551 FTE. FTE is a measure of number of full years of employment (230 days of work per year) created through work opportunity.

"Guided by the policy and commitment to implement EPWP (at the municipality), we will do our best to maintain good performance in the implementation of the Third Phase of EPWP," Madikane said.

He added that the municipality's success in the implementation of the EPWP can be attributed to a range of factors, including the inclusion of EPWP as an integral part of the municipality's function.



"EPWP is not a separate project but should be integral to implementing of CAPEX and Operational budgets. Political will and support are also important," Madikane said. Madikane added that the municipality has also used its own capital to finance EPWP projects with the aim of boosting the creation of work opportunities.

Muller said that municipalities in the Western Cape were moving at great speeds to achieve their EPWP targets.

"This municipality (Overstrand Municipality) is ten work opportunities away from its annual target! We always encouraged our municipalities to do much more in going beyond their targets because the targets are a bare minimum" she said. She made a call to municipalities in that Province to focus more on the FTE so that participants can work for a longer period of time.

"This would allow our people to have work for a longer duration of time. On our side this will afford us an opportunity to package accredited training for these participants," Muller added.

# EPWP - improving quality of education in Gauteng

By Michael Mokoena

The quality of education that thousands of children are receiving at schools in Gauteng is improving as a result of Government's Extra School Support Programme (ESSP).

The ESSP is part of the Government's Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Social Sector and is being applied in many primary schools in Gauteng.



"Since the implementation of the ESSP in 2011, we've noted an improvement in the ability of our children to grasp both literacy and numeracy at our schools. We've seen an improvement in the results of the Annual National Assessment (ANA) at the schools where this programme is being applied. Today our children are able to read and count as a result of this programme," the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE's) ESSP coordinator in the Ekurhuleni North Region Rebecca Moloi said.

The Programme is implemented by the (GDE) – as a lead department – alongside various Government Departments including Public Works, Community Safety as well as Sports and Recreation.

The ESSP is applied in Grade 1 to Grade 7 and it is implemented in a three pronged approach. The homework supervision, mass sport participation and school safety are the three parts of ESSP.

The first approach is to help improve the quality of the learner's education by helping them with homework supervision.

"We do a range of duties at the school including checking the learners' homework diaries and ensuring that they (learners) actually do their homework. Where the learners struggle with a subject – we help them," the ESSP homework supervisor at Siphephu Primary School in Daveyton-Ekurhuleni area. Yoliswa Khumalo said.

Khumalo, 31, pointed out that as homework supervisors they also assisted learners with various activities such as reading, spelling as well as language activities.

She said that the Programme has benefited her tremendously, particularly in relation to caring and working with children.

"The EPWP has also changed my life for the better because I'm able to put food on the table with a monthly stipend that I receive. I have also learned a lot about caring for children. This programme has been wonderful!" she added.

Khumalo and her colleagues in the homework supervision receive a monthly stipend of R700.

The team of ESSP homework supervisors at the school is led by the 23-year-old Phindile Makaringe who pointed out that there were a total of eleven ESSP practitioners at the school.

"There are six (6) homework supervisors, four (4) sports supervisors as well as 4 patrollers (safety officers) at the school. The homework supervisors help the learners with their homework in four main subjects, namely Mathematics, English, IsiZulu and in IsiNdebele," she explained.

The learners at the school described the ESSP as a "great programme".

"I was struggling with English, particularly with spelling of words and synonyms. My marks were also not looking good. But since the ESSP teachers (supervisors) arrived at our school, my spelling of words has improved. I now know more synonyms and my marks are improving," said Thato Nxumalo, a grade seven (7) learner at the school.

**"My parents are also happy that my school work is also improving,"**

She indicated that as a result of the ESSP supervisors, they had formed a debating team at the school.

"My parents are also happy that my school work is also improving," Nxumalo added.

A grade 2 teacher at the school, Hazel Mashinini, also commended the ESSP.

"These ESSP participants have made our work easier and are willing to go an extra mile to help the children. We need

government to get more young people on this programme,” Mashinini added.



The ESSP’s second and third legs are mass sport participation and school safety respectively.

A grade seven (7) learner at the Siphephu Primary School, Thabiso Mofokeng, explained that the ESSP’s mass sport participation had encouraged him to participate in several sporting codes at the school.

“As a result of my participation in Gymnastics and soccer at school, I have participated in several national tournaments in both sporting codes,” he said.

Another learner who is benefiting from ESSP at the Bhekifundo Primary School Mbali Zwane urged the Government to unleash more ESSP participants to her school.

“All my friends and classmates in Grade 3 love these ESSP teachers (participants) because they truly help us. We would like to have more of them,” she said.

A parent of a grade three learner at the school Nylon Mabusela also hailed the Programme.

“Parents love to see their children’s education being taken serious. We are pleased that government has taken the education of our children serious,” Mabusela said.

The school’s principal Patricia Mahati also spoke highly of the Programme.

“We currently have 12 ESSP participants at our school. We would welcome the decision to increase this number,” she added.

Moloi pointed out that the programme focused at providing a holistic development of learners at school, while providing work opportunities to the participants.

She said that there were 34 primary schools in her region that were implementing ESSP.

A rough calculation of the number of the learners at each of the school in the North Ekurhuleni region placed the number of learners who are benefiting from it at more than 40 000.

She explained that the ESSP in her region had close to 400 posts for this financial year.

“We have 250 posts that are funded through the EPWP’s Equitable Share Grant while the 147 posts are funded through the Incentive Grant. These posts include general supervisors, sports, arts and culture assistants, homework assistants and administration assistants that are locate at the district level,” Moloi said.

She added that the ESSP participants were receiving accredited training in various skills such as people’s management, Information Technology and Office Management, as well as Early Childhood and Development (ECD) training.



Moloi said that the ESSP participants were in a 12 month contract and were hired based on merit.

Criteria for the appointment of ESSP’s homework supervisors and sport supervisors include having a Grade 12 qualification. The candidate must be able to speak, write and read the language of training and must be available for four hours a day.



# Fight against climate change to create EPWP work opportunities

By Michael Mokoena



The EPWP Environment & Culture Sector is set to create over 1.1 million work opportunities in the next five years during the implementation of the Third Phase of EPWP.

The State President, Honourable Jacob Zuma, in October announced that the Government will create over 6 million work opportunities during the Third Phase of EPWP.

Minister Molewa mentioned a number of EPWP projects that were aimed at tackling climate change in South African communities while offering work opportunities to the poor and unemployed.

“We have programmes such as waste management, wetland rehabilitation, viability of water and others,” she added.



Member of the Executive Committee (MEC) for Economic Development in Gauteng, Lebogang Maile, also attended the event and stated that the creation of jobs had been critical in the implementation of the Province’s programmes to fight against climate change.

The National Climate Change Dialogue was organised by the DEA and the Inter-Governmental Committee on Climate Change (IGCCC) and its aims among other things was to provide a dynamic and vibrant space for demonstrating that South Africa is a country in transition to a lower carbon and climate resilient economy.

The event also came at the backdrop of the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCCC) which stated that “despite a growing number of climate change mitigating policies, global annual greenhouse gas emissions continue to grow rapidly. Today emissions were the highest in human history from 2000 to 2010”.

Addressing senior Government leaders from various countries including Germany, Belgium and Zambia as well as leading scientists from across the globe, minister Molewa said that solutions to climate change problems was crucial because “it is African men, women and children who are feeling its effect most”.

“As the citizens of the African continent, we are here to deepen our understanding of what needs to be done, and how we can intensify our current efforts to contribute our fair share to reduce emissions. For it is Africa that has borne the brunt of climate change,” she remarked.

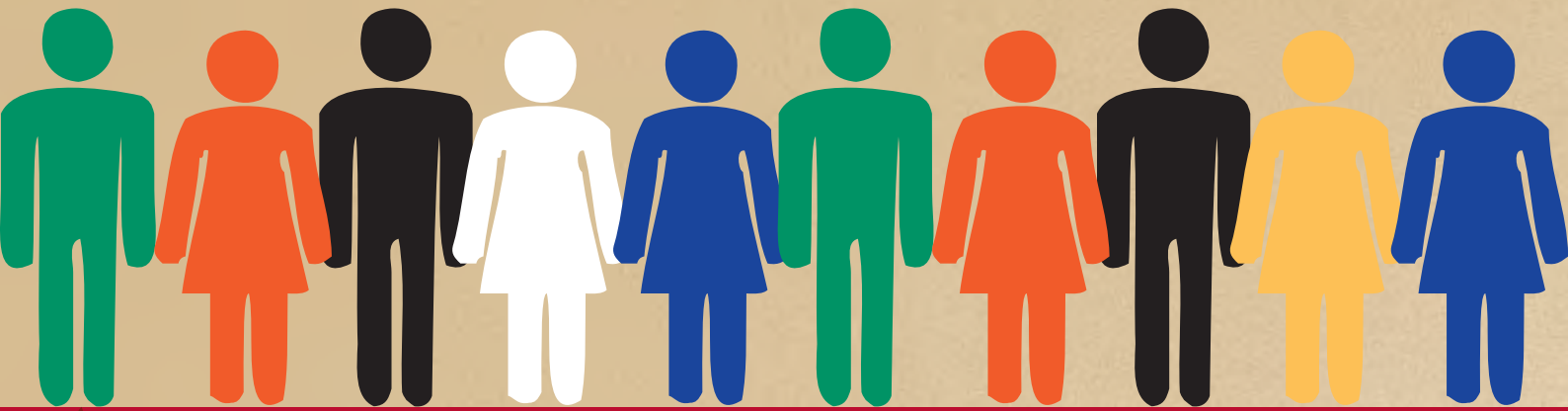
Molewa added after the success of the United Nations COP 17 conference in Durban in 2011, all governments had to work hard to ensure that the next similar conference, which will be held in Paris next year delivered an outcome that is legally binding and fair to all countries in the world’s fight against climate change.

South Africa’s transition to a low carbon and climate resilient economy will continue to create mass jobs and training opportunities for the people.

According to the Minister for the Department Environmental Affairs (DEA), Ms Edna Molewa, work opportunities created through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) in the Environmental Sector remain important.

“The Government’s climate change responses must improve the lives of our people through growing the economy, creating sustainable jobs, reducing poverty and improving their public health. EPWP work opportunities remains important in our work to fight against climate change in our communities,” minister Molewa said.

Speaking at a media briefing during the opening of the department’s three day 2014 National Climate Change Response Dialogue on 10 October 2014, which was held in Midrand, Molewa pointed out that EPWP projects were having a positive impact in the government’s work to tackle climate change at local level.



## EPWP must promote social cohesion: Henderson

By Michael Mokoena

Placing public participation at the centre of the implementation of the third phase of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) would lead to social cohesion, the Deputy Director General (DDG) of EPWP Stanley Henderson said.

Addressing the opening of the EPWP Infrastructure Sector mid-term review session held at Birchwood Hotel in Gauteng on 22 October 2014, Mr Henderson said that “the ownership of EPWP by our communities would lead to social cohesion”.

“As we move with speed to create the 6 million EPWP work opportunities by 2019, communities must be part of this work. They must not only be encouraged to identify the work that needs to be done by EPWP but they must be at the decision making level. EPWP must bring all sectors of our society together as they work with government on the identification and implementation of built projects that will better their lives,” Mr Henderson said.

He was speaking to senior EPWP managers who attended the meeting.

**He explained that communities had answers on how EPWP can be used to better their lives.**

“EPWP projects have worked to change the lives of our people for the better in the past 10 years since the inception of this Programme in 2004. In the Infrastructure Sector, we have built roads, bridges, clinics, schools and other

valuable infrastructural resources in our communities. In many communities, children are no longer forced to cross through rivers to get to school because government had built roads and bridges linking them to these vital institutions,” Henderson explained.

He added that already EPWP projects had enabled the public to get access to government services such as health, safety, security and others.

“When EPWP participants build public infrastructure such as roads, clinics and schools, our people are able to get access to basic government services, therefore the public must be part of EPWP so that we can continue to build assets that add value in their lives,” Henderson said.

He pointed out that it was vital for the EPWP to achieve its target of 6 million work opportunities by 2019. The Infrastructure sector is expected to create more than 2.4 million of the 6 million work opportunities.

“But we must think beyond numbers. We must think of the development of our people holistically through EPWP. Think of how our people’s lives are being changed for the better on a daily basis by EPWP,” Henderson added.

He then thanked the EPWP managers who came from all nine provinces to attend the meeting.

“Your hard work and commitment in the implementation of EPWP as a government programme to alleviate poverty and unemployment has ensured that we succeed in improving the lives

of our people. I wish you all well in your work to rolling out the third phase of EPWP,” he added.

The Chief Director of EPWP Infrastructure Sector Ignatius Ariyo said that the sector was on track to achieve its target of more than 390 000 work opportunities by the end of 2014/15 financial year.

“We’ve created more than half of this target already. We were at 40 percent of this target at the end of the first quarter of the year. We are on track to meet the target for the year,” Mr Ariyo said,

Mr Ariyo explained that the mid-term review meeting was significant to check progress made in the sector in terms of its business plan for 2014/15 financial year.

“This meeting has given us an opportunity to see where we are and to also come up with strategies on how we could meet our targets as a sector,” Ariyo said.

He said that some of the challenges that have been noted by the meeting were the collection of data and reporting on the number of work opportunities created.

EPWP is one of Government’s major Public Employment Programmes under the Anti-Poverty Strategy. The Programme is being implemented in all spheres of government and State-Owned Enterprises.

EPWP created a total of 5.5 million work opportunities across all its four sectors in the past 10 years.