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Special points of interest:

- Celebrating Excellence and job creation: Minister Nxesi
- Public Works turn around strategy yields successful results

PROVINCES SHINE BRIGHT AT PRESTIGIOUS 2014

EPWP KAMOSO AWARDS

By Michael Mkoena

THE KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and Gauteng Provinces were the bright stars of the

most of the awards in the event.

The high-level awards were held yesterday at the Saint

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



Minister of Public Works Mr TW Nxesi and Tshwane Executive Mayor Mr. K Ramokgopa at the prestigious EPWP Kamoso Award 2014 - St Georges, Pretoria.

prestigious 2014 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Kamoso Awards Ceremony as they walked away with

George Hotel and Conference Centre, located outside Pretoria.



*Third Phase
of EPWP
was to create
over 6 Million
Work
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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

She added that the Province had a plethora of EPWP projects that were employing huge numbers of people including the Zibambele 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 Sec-

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

"With this two department on outside, we know that we will more awards at next year's Kamoso Awards. That is our commitment!" Matshavha added.

Below is the table of the Stars of the Prestigious 2014 EPWP Kamoso Awards,



Project Awards winners of in the category in the Infrastructure and Social Sector; KwaZulu Natal

creation of work opportunities.

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



tor) and the Best Innovative Social Sector Project.

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 recog-

NB: List of winner on the insert.





**Third Phase of
EPWP was to
create over 6
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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 last night at the Saint George Conference Centre in Gauteng.

Addressing close to a thousand delegates who gathered at the venue, Nxesi said commended the hard work done by the EPWP delegates 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".

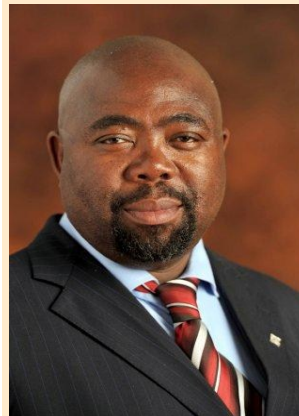
"You have been justifiably honoured by your peers. By recognising excellence in the work of individuals and organisations, we also raise the bar and we inspire others to emulate their examples," Nxesi added.

He said that the work of the public bodies that are im-

plementing 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 pro-



**Minister of Public
Works: Mr TW Nxesi**

gramme to eradicate 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 about the EPWP Summit which kick-started this morning.

"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 implementing bodies and finally to introduce 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 of creating more than 6 Million Work Opportunities by 2019.

Minister Nxesi 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 targeted 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 area 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.

Public Works turn around strategy yields successful results

The National Department of Public Works (NDPW) Turnaround Strategy is producing positive results, the Minister for the department T W Nxesi said yesterday.

Minister Nxesi used the EPWP Kamoso Awards 2014 to announce that his strategy to clean the department was yielding producing results.



Making a point: Minister of Public Works Mr T Nxesi.

He used a number of indicators, including the Department's Clean Audit Project, Lease Audit as well as Immovable Asset Register.

"Department of Public Works (DPW) received an unqualified audit. PMTE moved from multiple disclaimers to a qualified audit," he said.

His statement was met by jubilations and clapping of hands by the delegates.

The Minister however was fast to point out that the Auditor General had sharply criticised the department that it received a lot of money yet it failed to perform well in terms of the audits.

"I've noticed that it's not about Public Works nationally – they are talking about the whole Public Works family. National might perform but if one or two provinces are not performing, it's going to impact negatively on the whole family," he explained.

He urged all Department offices to operate in unison and "forget about the artificial silos that you have created".

He also urged to all sectors of Government to work together.

"It is only through our cooperation with municipalities that we can have a proper asset register. We must therefore avoid working in silos," he added.

The Minister said that the National Department had taken over control of the Government Leases.

"The Immovable Asset Register – for the first time in its history DPW has a credible and comprehensive register of its properties. 98 percent of these have been physically verified," he added.

Minister Nxesi indicated that the major reason for the department's success has been the fact that the department was stable and committed to good governance and accountability.

"We are now in the Second Phase of the Turnaround which is called "Efficiency En-

hancement" where we improve the way that the Department does business," he explained.

"Operationalization of the Government Risk and Compliance Branch – to spearhead anti-corruption and to enhance planning, monitoring and evaluation to improve performance and service delivery," Minister Nxesi explained.

He added that the enhancement of the core mandate of the Department which includes policy regulation and transformation of the Built Environment as well as the coordination and leadership of the wider public works family in the Provinces.

"Department of Public Works (DPW) received an unqualified audit. PMTE moved from multiple disclaimers to a qualified audit,"

hancement" where we improve the way that the Department does business," he explained.

He added that the key programmes during the Second Phase of the Turnaround were to operationalise the PMTE – to ring-fence and professional-

