



public works

Department:
Public Works
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME

NEWSLETTER • NEWSLETTER • NEWSLETTER • NEWSLETTER

October 2013 edition

KwaZulu-Natal hosts EPWP Indaba

By Khomotso Gosebo



From 29 to 30 August 2013, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport hosted an EPWP Indaba at Coastal Lands Hotel in Durban.

The aim of the two-day Indaba was to review the EPWP's performance progress since 2009, to communicate progress on EPWP Phase 3, and to intensify the implementation of the EPWP in the province.

Delegates from more than 60 municipalities in KwaZulu-Natal, and representatives from the National Department of Public Works including the EPWP Deputy Director-General, Mr Stanley Henderson, attended the Indaba.

The National Department of Public Works, in partnership with the KwaZulu-Natal provincial departments of transport and cooperative governance and traditional affairs have embarked on an initiative of assisting the local government (municipalities) in the implementation of the EPWP.

The National Department of Public Works provides EPWP framework guidelines, as well as incentive grant funds for programmes; while the Department of Transport provides technical support to municipalities.



The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs assists in the overall coordination of municipalities to fully comply with the EPWP policy framework when implementing their projects.

The following resolutions were undertaken at the Indaba to be implemented by relevant stakeholders:

Institutional arrangements

- The Indaba noted progress made regarding the development and endorsements of EPWP municipal policies and resolved that all remaining policies should be endorsed by March 2014.
- District municipalities will lead the formation of a district forum and the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs will engage municipalities through intergovernmental forums to address the establishment of the district forums.
- EPWP champions will be appointed per EPWP implementing body and the Department of Transport and National Department of Public Works will offer support.
- Further engagement with municipal political leadership and executives on the EPWP and their roles will take place. Briefing sessions with councillors on their performance will be led by the the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and supported by the Department of Transport, National Department of Public Works and KwaZulu-Natal Public Works.



Compliance

- All sites must have official attendance registers for each project, a payment register for beneficiaries, and copies of their identity documents.
- All data reported on must be verified before being signed off by the heads of departments.
- Each public body must keep its own records of reported data.
- EPWP Phase 3: The Indaba noted the high-level proposal presented and committed to ensure that the objectives of Phase 3 will be met in the province.

Monitoring and evaluation

- The Indaba resolved that public bodies should enhance their own data-capturing support, assisted by the provincial and national coordinating departments

Sector implementation

- Infrastructure: All implementing bodies should improve the performance of the sector.
- Social Sector: All municipalities should improve their EPWP performance by implementing social-sector programmes using their line budgets. The lead department will work hand-in-hand with other provincial social-sector departments and implementing bodies to improve sector performance in the province.
- Environment and Culture: All implementing bodies should improve their EPWP performance by implementing programmes using their respective budgets.
- Non-State Sector: The Indaba noted progress in the implementation of the Non-State Sector Non-profit Organisation Programme and resolved that all municipalities should assist and participate in the implementation of the programme.



Communication

- It should be ensured that EPWP projects are properly branded using the *EPWP Corporate Identity Manual*.
- Communication units of public bodies should mainstream EPWP communication in their communication units.
- Public bodies should budget for signboards in their project budgets.
- Sectors lead departments must ensure that the Kamoso Awards entry forms are submitted for 2013.
- The provincial coordinator will lead EPWP Week.
- The MEC, executive mayors, municipal managers and heads of departments should include the EPWP in speeches at all major public events.
- Public bodies should budget for EPWP communication.

Incentive Grant

- The Indaba noted a general decrease in expenditure reporting made on the incentive grant and resolved that all municipalities and implementing bodies must report their expenditure reports as per DORA and their project list.
- Orientation discussions will be held with councillors and mayors to capacitate them on EPWP.
- Regular reporting to political principals should be implemented.

People with disabilities mainstreamed into the EPWP

By Lesego Moretlwe



As part of its mandate to provide work opportunities for the unemployed and alleviate poverty within South African communities, the EPWP is embarking on a series of community information-sharing sessions in all the provinces with the objective of mobilising communities for increased inclusion and the participation of people with disabilities in the EPWP Non-State Sector. The first session was held at Sheldon Lodge, KwaMhlanga in Mpumalanga on 21 August 2013. Thereafter sessions were held in Gauteng, the Free State, Limpopo and Eastern Cape respectively.

The EPWP Non-State Sector spearheads these information sessions, which are expected to be conducted for the duration of the 2013/14 financial year.

The objectives of the information sessions are to:

- create awareness about the EPWP Non-State Sector and people with disabilities
- provide a platform for the sector to better understand the challenges of disabled people taking part in the Non-State Sector programme
- to encourage municipalities to support the services offered by the non-profit organisations in the Non-State Sector programme.

All four sectors of the EPWP (non-state, social, environment and culture, and infrastructure) have been mandated to contribute significantly to the upliftment of communities through the provision of work opportunities and including people with disabilities as well as youth and women in EPWP projects.

The EPWP Chief Director: Operations, Ms Kelebogile Sethibelo, said the EPWP is not only about meeting the targets but also about restoring human dignity and giving beneficiaries the power to sustain their livelihood.

In addressing the challenges of poverty and unemployment, inequality remains a critical aspect of human rights that needs to be addressed through the provisioning of work opportunities for people with disabilities.

Mr Thomas Mashego representing Disabled People of South Africa, a national organisation that promotes awareness of issues faced by people with disabilities, welcomed the EPWP information session initiative as he raised a number of challenges facing people with disabilities in accessing government services. Lack of integrated systems to mainstream people with disabilities into government processes was highlighted as one of the challenges that need to be addressed.

All relevant stakeholders, such as municipalities, the Disabled People of South Africa, Independent Development Trust and the South African Social Services Agency remain critical partners for the duration of these information sessions as they actively participate in realising the objectives of the EPWP information sessions.

EPWP Cemetery Maintenance Programme restores people's dignity

By Lesego Moretlwe



The Deputy Minister of Public Works, Mr Jeremy Cronin, recently launched the EPWP Environment and Culture Sector Cemetery Maintenance Programme at Joe Morolong Local Municipality in Churchill Village, in Kuruman.

The high level of unemployment and poverty in the Joe Morolong municipal area prompted the establishment of the programme in the community, who depend on subsistence farming to provide work opportunities and uplift their socio-economic conditions.

The objective of the launch was to empower the community and assist them in managing the old as well as active cemeteries, thereby enhancing its wildlife value using conservation practices that can be supported by community involvement with proper cemetery infrastructure that embraces biodiversity.

The Deputy Minister was accompanied by the MEC for Public Works and Roads in the Northern Cape, Mr Dawid Rooi, and the regional manager of the Independent Development Trust, Ms T Maleke.

In his speech, Deputy Minister Cronin urged the community to work together with government in fighting poverty and unemployment.

The EPWP Environment and Culture Sector Cemetery Maintenance Programme is one of the EPWP's expansion plans that have been identified to increase the sector's work opportunities and assist municipalities to deliver on their mandate.

The programme has employed 66 EPWP beneficiaries who are participating in the labour-intensive work opportunities for a period of eight months. They will perform duties such as cutting grass, constructing ablution facilities, developing demarcated parking areas, as well as the construction and maintenance of paths.

The completed cemetery site will then be handed over to the municipality by the Department of Public Works.



Provincial Department of Public Works hosts two-day summit in Nkowankowa

By Tshuluzi Nkoana

More than 300 delegates attended the second two-day Provincial EPWP Summit at Tivumbeni Multipurpose Centre (Nkowankowa) outside Tzaneen on 25 and 26 July 2013.

Representatives from South African civic organisations, the Independent Development Trust, non-governmental organisations and provincial departments taking part in the implementation of the EPWP attended the Summit.

In his opening remarks, the provincial MEC for Public Works, Namane Masemola, called for more action in implementing the programme. He further stated that the summit will evaluate the contribution of the province towards the alleviation of poverty through the creation of labour-intensive work opportunities.

During the first phase, Limpopo satisfactorily contributed towards the national target of one million work opportunities by contributing 144 472 work opportunities. In the current phase, it is expected that the province will contribute significantly to ensure that unemployment is halved by 2014. Limpopo is expected to contribute 441 993 work opportunities towards the national target of 4,5 million opportunities during Phase 2 of the programme.

“Progress on implementation by all sectors except the Social Sector has dropped significantly over the past few years. We need to recommit ourselves as a matter of urgency to ensure the success of the EPWP and its objectives. We have come a long way, but much more still needs to be done,” he said.

With the support of the Department of Corporative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, five-year protocol agreements have been signed with 30 municipal mayors in the province by 2010/11, while 10 provincial departments have signed incentive agreements with the National Department of Public Works. “We have just recently completed launching the five EPWP district forums, with the objective of intensifying coordination of the EPWP at municipal level and to further maximise municipal contribution to the provincial target. This speaks directly to the 30% contribution by municipalities,” concluded MEC Masemola.

The summit concluded with resolutions to strengthen the running of the EPWP in the province.

The following are the 2013 Limpopo Summit resolutions:

- **District forums:** The summit noted the progress in establishing the five district forums. It was resolved that district forums will meet quarterly and have an annual corporate calendar as developed by the provincial Department of Public Works to ensure that municipalities and the lead sector do presentations on a 50/50 basis. This will ensure that sector representation improves and that participation is compulsory, with support from lead sector departments. The department must monitor the implementation of the EPWP protocol and fulfil the terms of reference of the district forums.
- **Municipal policies:** Seven municipalities have endorsed

EPWP municipal policies. The summit resolved that all policies must be endorsed by 31 October 2013. The provincial and national departments of public works will provide technical support. The summit resolved that the EPWP municipal policy would include a beneficiary recruitment policy guideline.

- **Monitoring:** The district forums, sector committees and provincial sector committee will monitor reporting and ensure that the summit resolutions are implemented.
- **EPWP Social Sector:** The summit resolved to expand job creation in the Social Sector through a robust drive to involve municipalities and the implementation of new social-sector programmes among public sector bodies. The summit resolved to engage non-participating public bodies.
- **EPWP Non-State Sector:** The summit noted that the non-wage cost for the non-profit programme has increased from 3% to 5%. Institutional arrangements for the Community Work Programme in relation to other EPWP structures should be improved within the province.
- **EPWP Infrastructure Sector:** The Infrastructure Sector will set up compliance standards and enforcement measures at implementing body, project and service-provider levels.
- **EPWP Environment and Culture Sector:** The sector must explore and implement the “culture” part in conjunction with the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture as part of expansions.
- **EPWP training:** Public bodies should budget, implement and report on training provided to EPWP beneficiaries. Public bodies should engage with sector education and training authorities for training funds, with the support of the provincial and national departments of public works. Sector departments should identify priority skills interventions to ensure early planning and economies of scale.
- **EPWP enterprise development:** Sectors must identify enterprise development initiatives within various EPWP programmes to be supported and reported on. The provincial and national departments of public works will engage with the Department of Economic Development to lead in support offered to enterprises.
- **EPWP monitoring and evaluation:** The summit resolved to strengthen reporting on and compliance with EPWP standards across all sectors and spheres through the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation oversight committee.
- **EPWP champions:** Municipalities must appoint a political champion for the EPWP and establish an EPWP portfolio committee. Further, an EPWP champion must be appointed at senior staff level to oversee all four sectors of the EPWP. Such a champion must be a Section 57 manager. Departments must also appoint a person at senior management level to oversee the EPWP.
- **EPWP communication:** The summit resolved that EPWP communication efforts will improve through the continuation of MEC-led EPWP public participation programmes; the introduction of a provincial events calendar; Limpopo contributing and enhancing the EPWP website; executive mayors and municipal managers should mention EPWP in speeches at all major public events; and public bodies should budget for EPWP communication.



67 minutes and more dedicated to Mandela Day

By Lesego Moretlwe

In honour and celebration of International Mandela Day, the Deputy Minister of Public Works, Mr Jeremy Cronin officiated the EPWP General Security Learners Graduation Ceremony that took place on 18 July 2013 at the Protea Hotel in Bloemfontein.

By attending the graduation of the 22 learners who acquired General Security Officer Level 3 qualifications, the EPWP continued to fulfil the Department of Public Works' mandate of providing security services to protect government assets and provide safety to occupants in State buildings while averting high costs attached to the appointment of private security services.

The Department of Public Works' Bloemfontein regional office had identified the security officers' practical learnership as one of the avenues through which the

department can get involved in delivering EPWP Social Sector work opportunities while addressing the need for the delivery of security services in certain identified buildings managed by the regional office.

In his keynote address, Deputy Minister Cronin highlighted unemployment and inequality as the big challenges of the country, which need urgent interventions; hence the existence of the EPWP. He further said the public sector needs to take the lead in responding to these challenges and also acknowledged the contribution of all the relevant stakeholders in fighting said challenges. "This is the best gift you have given to Tata Mandela," concluded Mr Cronin when he acknowledged the achievement by the EPWP security graduates.

In her message of support, the chief executive officer of Safety and Security Sector Education and Training Authority, Ms N Nqamata,

extended a word of appreciation to the learners and the Department of Public Works for their high level of cooperation in ensuring that skills development take place.

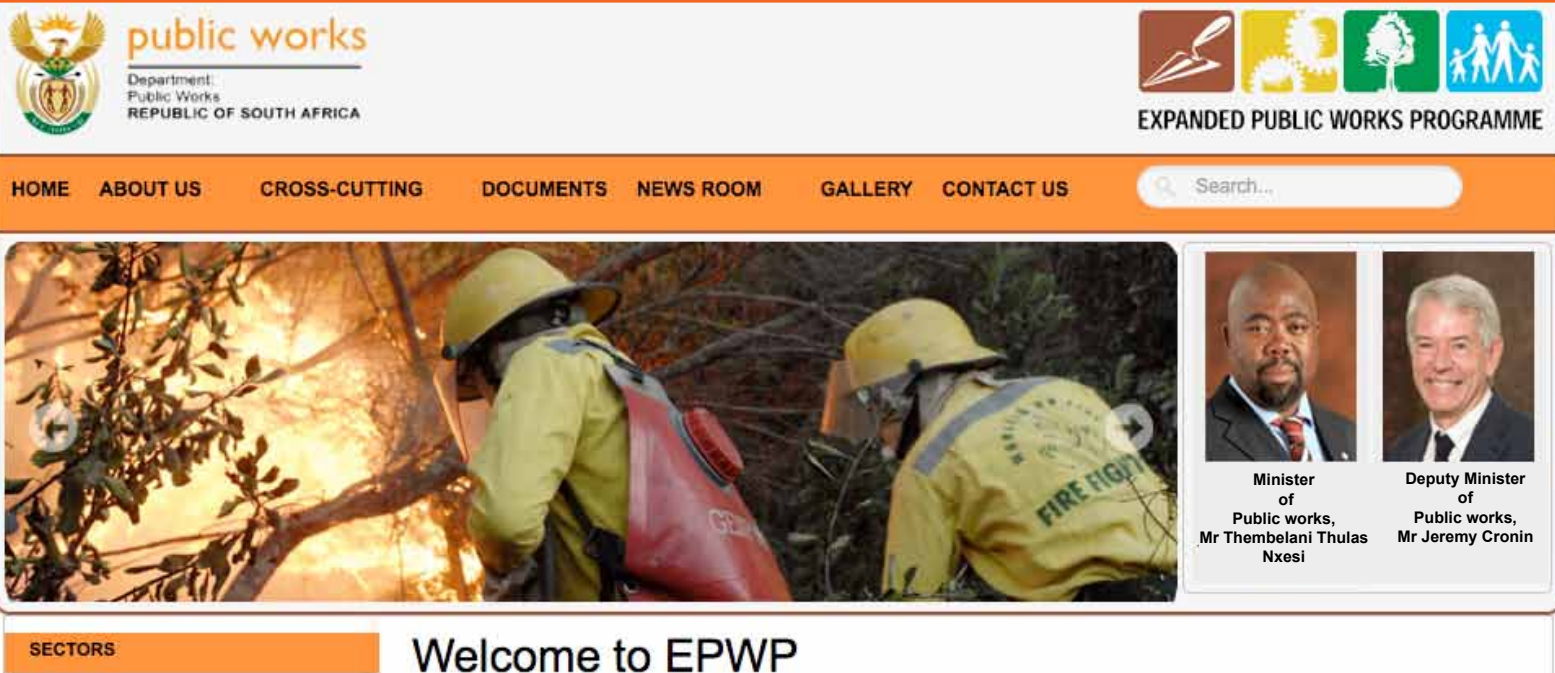
In his testimony on behalf of other EPWP beneficiaries, Mr B Mafanyane indicated that the learnership has assisted him to realise the importance of security as one of the professions to undertake and to be alert and observant at all times, as required by the security industry.

The Deputy Minister and officials from the department, as well as other stakeholders visited the Cee Jay Early Childhood Development Centre and dedicated 67 minutes to activities such as painting, planting trees, gardening, and cleaning the centre as a symbol of assisting those in need and making a difference in their lives.



EPWP launches new revamped website

By Kgomo Mathuloe



SECTORS

Welcome to EPWP

“A website is an important platform for interaction between programmes and their target audience.” These were the words of the Deputy Director-General, Mr Stanley Henderson, at the launch of the new EPWP website at the Protea Hotel in Pretoria in July 2013. Addressing a media briefing, Mr Henderson announced the progress and achievements of the programme since the implementation of Phase 2 in 2009.

He said that EPWP – as one of government’s programmes aimed at alleviating poverty and unemployment – has created over three million work opportunities by March 2013, and continues to have a significant impact in the lives of poor and unemployed South Africans.

He also highlighted the following achievements of the programme:

- By the end of the 2012/13 financial year, more than three million work opportunities had been created across all EPWP sectors, namely infrastructure, non-state, environment, and culture and social. The target for this phase, which will end in March 2014, is 4,5 million. This achievement will position the programme as one of the key catalysts in government’s job-creation drive.
- The incentive grant model was revised to allow rural municipalities easier access to grants to increase labour-intensive work opportunities through the EPWP projects. The revised model has been implemented since the 2012/13.
- The programme easily reached its target for women and youth participating, with 60% of the participants being women and 50% being youth, compared to the targets of 55% women and 40% youth.
- More municipalities are implementing the EPWP. By October 2013, 277 out of 278 municipalities have signed protocol agreements committing them to achieve their EPWP targets.

He further stated that the EPWP branch is currently in the processes of finalising a business plan for the implementation of Phase 3. The proposal will be submitted to the Cabinet Lekgotla for endorsement.



FOR YOU ARE A WOMAN

By Mnisi Ruudy

My search of happiness ended the day i bumped into you
Your smile convinced me that sorrow was nothing but a dream
Your white teeth made snow look unkept
In your eyes i saw my future, and loneliness ran for its life
For you are a woman

You held my hand and made me feel safe
You whispered in my ear and chased away fears
Like a green light in the traffic
You opened your heart for me and allowed for progress to happen
For you are a woman

In your breasts our kids drain life, energy and inspiration
You don't endanger but empower
You don't intimidate but inspire
You don't terrorise but offer tender care
For you are a woman

In your womb life happens
On your back many souls are carried
Your hands may not be strong, but work tirelessly to provide
Life cannot be defined without you coming into the picture
For you are a woman

A mother to kids
A sister to your siblings
A daughter to your parents
And I am obliged to call you a wonderful soul
For you are a woman

Poem for Women's Month

She is every ounce of strength, courage and wisdom in trace-amounts of men
She is the effervescence of life –
Destiny, faith in our fathers, love, light and hope for tomorrow
She is the seed of prosperity bringing forth virtuous fruit –
Faith, charity, resilience and truth
She is the dawn, beauty and strength of every tomorrow
Speaking peace to every sorrow
She is woman for God's plan
She was chosen by God, by His hand

NELSON MANDELA

18 July 2013 *day*

