



public works

Department:
Public Works
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Expanded Public Works Programme

Launch of the EPWP Social Sector Youth Community Safety and Security Programme

***Breede Valley, Western Cape
7 November 2013***

Keynote Address:

Honourable TW Nxesi, Minister of Public Works

PROTOCOL

- Programme Director (Mr Gerrit Matthyse)
- MEC (Mr Robin Carlisle – pronounced with a silent ‘s’: carl-aisle)
- Mayor (Basil Kivedo)
- Councillors
- Representatives of ward committees
- Stakeholders:
 - Breede Valley Municipality Community Services Department (Traffic Section and Fire Department)
 - DPW: EPWP Social Sector, and
 - National Youth Development Agency (NYDA)
- Government officials from all spheres of government
- Ladies and gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to participate in this important event. Thanks to the organisers for inviting me to share some thoughts with you today.

This is a time to celebrate – and to remind ourselves that when we work together – as stakeholders and all spheres of government – we can deliver and we can improve the lives of all our people.

On a lighter note, as Minister of Public Works, it is such a relief not to be talking about fraud and corruption, collusion etc... The serious point is to remind ourselves that there are large parts of the Public Works family that perform well – and in the case of EPWP, are striving for excellence.

Let me also mention the importance of community involvement in the planning and delivery of these projects. We need community structures and leaders to ensure the buy-in of the community so that whatever we do or build is looked after and safe-guarded by the community.

Community participation is also vital in ensuring that there is open, transparent and tight control of the

process of allocating EPWP work opportunities – so that these opportunities are fairly shared throughout the community.

So let's be upfront and open on these matters.

Concerns were raised that in this case – for this project in Breede Valley – there were imbalances in regard to the racial composition of beneficiaries and the fact that not all wards were represented.

Obviously, as responsible leaders we had to address these concerns. We cannot allow a positive initiative like this one to be pulled down by controversy and infighting.

I am therefore very glad that the Municipality and the EPWP-Social Sector were able to sit down to address the imbalances and to craft solutions. They committed resources to double the size of the project – so that instead of 52 individual beneficiaries, a further 48 youths will be recruited – giving a total of 100.

Working together, the municipality and the EPWP will ensure that recruitment is:

- balanced in terms of race and gender;
- that every ward is represented; and
- people living with disabilities are also properly represented.

Congratulations to all concerned for coming up with a win-win situation – and for also recognising the importance of fairness and representivity – in terms of work opportunities and procurement - and the fact that we have to actively intervene to ensure that this takes place.

Let me stress again the importance of partnerships – with the three stakeholders working together:

- *Breede Valley Municipality Community Services Department/Traffic Section and Fire Department – providing:*

- Overall project and operational management
- Monitoring and reporting, and
- Practical workplace experience.

- *DPW: EPWP Social Sector* – providing:
 - Budget for stipends and uniforms, and
 - Training.

- *National Youth Development Agency (NYDA)* – providing:
 - Life skills and entrepreneurship training, and
 - Support for exiting beneficiaries into formal employment and self-employment.

The Breede Valley Youth Community Safety and Security Project

Implementation of the Breede Valley Youth Community Safety and Security Project began in April 2013 as a pilot project of the EPWP Social Sector to create work

opportunities and expand the sector's involvement at local level.

The project is designed to address youth unemployment, while also rendering security and safety services to school children, traffic safety, fire safety and public safety in the town and surrounding areas of Breede Valley.

An informed decision to select the Breede Valley Municipality was taken based on the rural bias, high levels of unemployment among the youth, and the willingness of the municipality to pilot the Youth Community Safety and Security project.

Community Safety and Security is one of government's priorities - Outcome 3 on ensuring that "All people in South Africa are and feel Safe".

The origins of this project lie in a municipality study conducted by the Social Sector in 2011 through the

Independent Development Trust (IDT). The results confirmed the huge potential among municipalities to deliver social service-related and human capital development programmes.

Guided by the rise in gender and child violence and other security challenges, Breede Valley Municipality and EPWP Social Sector identified this project as a perfect intervention strategy - while at the same time addressing youth poverty and unemployment.

Community safety and security projects are appropriately delivered by youth due to the demand for physical strength, energy and agility that the youth possess.

Subsequently, the EPWP Social Sector entered into an agreement with the executive of the Breede Valley Municipality in March 2013 to implement the project.

This project is in line with the National Development Plan (NDP) which links work creation to social protection - supporting vulnerable groups, especially the youth.

I am pleased to announce that this project is also being piloted on three sites in Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Northern Cape. I can assure you, that successful implementation in these pilots will result in a national roll-out across municipalities resulting in:

- Improved security, and
- Job creation for the youth.

Project objectives include:

- The creation of work opportunities for young people of 18 – 35 years in Breede Valley Municipality and surrounding areas under the auspices of the EPWP Social Sector.

- Provision of monthly stipends for these youths in line with the EPWP Ministerial Determination. (R70.32 per day)
- Training of the youth in the project for efficient service delivery and personal development.
- Mentorship of the youth by the experienced relevant security managers working for the municipality.
- Rendering security and safety services to school children and the public in the Breede Valley area.
- The existing beneficiaries are currently deployed:
 - At road crossings as Traffic Wardens
 - At primary schools as school patrols assisting children to cross the main road
 - At the Fire Department as fire fighters, and
 - As security patrols in town.

It is envisaged that the municipality will extend the project for another year in 2014/15 to provide the youth an opportunity to phase out gradually into alternative employment.

Project roll-out to other municipalities nationally will be facilitated in the following years.

EPWP

Let me say a few word about the good work being done by EPWP. We are now finalising the planning for Phase III of the EPWP Programme – from 2014-2019 - based on the following approach:

- To up-scale numbers – by focusing on areas which give the largest number of work opportunities.
- But more importantly, rather than just counting numbers, the emphasis will be on the quality of the EPWP outcomes in terms of:

- Improved service for poor communities – such as home-based care, ECD, security, cleaning of cemeteries etc
- Provision – and importantly, maintenance - of additional infrastructure – such as roads, as well as
- More innovative projects which concentrate on greening and sustaining the environment.

EPWP will deliver over 4.5 million work opportunities over the five years of this government. It will deliver more in Phase III – during the period of the next government – *whatever government that might be.*

DPW

Let me also report back to you on some of the successes we have had as the Department of Public Works in combatting fraud and corruption.

I have said we need to enforce zero tolerance of fraud and corruption – and reject the tenderpreneurs – both within the broader society and in government.

I am pleased to be able to report that in the Department of Public Works we have made serious progress in combatting fraud and corruption. As a result of investigations by the SIU (Special Investigations Unit) we have been able to move against corrupt elements – dismissing senior staff members and instigating court action to reclaim monies wrongly obtained.

We have now put in place systems to prevent corrupt practices. Meanwhile the wrong-doers will pay for their crimes.

Infrastructure: driving economic growth and jobs

As we move towards elections in 2014, it is inevitable that we will debate the record of the present government. And it is right and proper that we do this.

I would argue that in key areas of economic policy we have seen significant shifts – with the objective of combatting poverty and inequality and creating jobs.

I have personal experience and knowledge as a member of the PICC (Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Council) of the Infrastructure Plan to drive inclusive economic growth and development; and to lead the struggle against the triple evils of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

Major long-term Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs) have been developed to promote regional economies and job creation. Examples include:

SIP6: Integrated Municipal Infrastructure Project – to assist the poorest districts to address all infrastructure,

maintenance and services backlogs. And here we will be using EPWP labour intensive methodologies.

SIP 13: Schools building programme and schools beautification programme (maintenance) – again using EPWP methodology.

Government is committing 4 trillion Rand to infrastructure development in the coming years to stimulate growth and job creation – and to improve the lives of the people.

Let me stop there before I am accused of being too political.

The lessons we take away from Breede Valley today must be:

- That the Expanded Public Works Programme is working,

- that we can combine the creation of work opportunities with improved social provision of services to communities, and

- that, in the words of the President:

“Working together we can achieve more.”

I thank you.