

**Public Employment Programmes
Inter-Ministerial Committee (PEP-IMC)**

**THE HANDOVER OF A VEHICLE TO NOMAXABISO
NON PROFIT ORGANISATION (NPO) FOR THE
Nomaxabiso Victim Empowerment Programme**

Ekuphumuleni Hall, Whittlesea, Eastern Cape

24 November 2018

Remarks by: Mr TW Nxesi MP

Minster of Public Works

Protocol:

- Honourable MEC of Public Works in Eastern Cape
- Mayors and Councillors
- The Chief of this community

- Government officials – national, provincial and municipal
- EPWP Participants
- Members of the media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning and thank you for joining us on this memorable occasion. Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge the presence of the dignitaries here today. May I extend a special acknowledgement to the local Chief, Tata Wangalesizwe Zimema and the representatives of the local municipalities in this area.

The work that you are doing as a collective - traditional leadership, communities and municipalities, as well as civil society organizations and the private sector - is not as easy as it might seem to be. You are at the coalface of service delivery and I am humbled by your selfless willingness to ensure that this community is provided with the services that they need.

Yours is a difficult task. The struggles and pain of this community are your pain and their challenges and experiences are felt by you before anyone else. I am therefore impressed by your spirit of togetherness.

Today I am here, delegated by the Deputy President of the Country, the Honourable D.D Mabuza who is the Chair of the Public Employment Programmes Inter-Ministerial Committee (PEP-IMC) to hand over a vehicle donated by Nissan South Africa in support of the work done by Nomaxabiso Non-Profit Organisation (NPO).

In our country, Public Employment Programmes (PEPs) are driven through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) which is one of government's key initiatives aimed at fighting the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality through the provision of short to medium term work and training opportunities to the poor, unskilled and unemployed South Africans. The EPWP uses labour-intensive

methods to deliver public services and assets that lead to the development of communities.

The request for transport from Nomaxabiso NPO was raised during the site visit undertaken last year in June 2017 to EPWP projects in this area, led by the then Deputy President of the Country, the Honourable Cyril Ramaphosa accompanied by various Ministers and Deputy Ministers involved in Public Employment Programmes.

The Nomaxabiso NPO indicated that one of their needs is a vehicle to assist them in responding to the calls for assistance from victims of abuse. This assistance often requires transporting victims to a place of safety. I am pleased this that handover occurs on the eve of our country's annual campaign of 16 Days of Activism for No-Violence Against Women and Children, starting tomorrow, the 25th of November 2018.

We are grateful to have received this vehicle as a donation from Nissan South Africa. This is a testimony and proof that the Public-Private Partnership in the delivery of services among our communities is not a far-fetched dream but a reality. It exists! And all of us here today can attest to that.

As we are celebrating this milestone, it is proper that we should acknowledge the contribution of one of the pioneers of the Nomaxabiso Non-Profit Organisation (NPO), Mr. Zama Twana, who sadly passed on during our planning for this event. We would like to convey our sincerest condolences to his family and to the community as a whole. It is indeed a very sad loss for all of us.

We are starting a process of social audits in the EPWP in which communities can participate in order to ensure that government funds are used to create opportunities for all people – and to ensure that we are addressing the real needs of the community.

We want to appeal to the community to be social auditors – inspecting and monitoring - of programmes where the use of donations (such as the vehicle that we have received), as well as government project funding would be closely monitored by the community. A benefit of this social audit approach would be that the assets created and services delivered will benefit the poor – the many and not just the few.

We encourage our communities to become active citizens in working with government to address development challenges. To this end, we are rolling out the EPWP Recruitment Guidelines to ensure a fair and transparent recruitment process in order to build social cohesion and solidarity through our Public Employment Programmes.

The PEP-IMC delegation visited various EPWP projects. I would therefore want to report back on progress today on the commitments made, namely:

1. An Overnight Shelter

- The South African Police Service (SAPS) in Whittlesea has provided additional space for the Nomaxabiso Victim Empowerment Programme - the VEP Project - within the Whittlesea Police Precinct which is used as a Victim-Friendly room.
- In addition, the Department of Social Development has advised that the project can also make use of the nearest existing Overnight Shelter and that SAPS will provide transportation to the said facility.

2. Accredited Training for participants of Nomaxabiso

- The Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority (HW-SETA) has assisted the Nomaxabiso Victim Empowerment Programme to register with the HW-SETA. The Project can now directly apply for training funding to the SETA.
- The National Department of Public Works (Regional Office) also conducted a Conflict Management Workshop to assist participants with dealing with governance issues.

3. Request to establish cooperatives for the participants:

- The Enterprise Development Directorate within the Department of Public Works assisted the project participants to register as a cooperative.
- Public Works is currently assisting the participants to establish a bakery.

Let me also mention the other projects visited during last PEP-IMC in June 2017:

- Ncedisizwe Home Based Care
- Samukuhle Senior Secondary School, and
- Lukhandji Community Work Programme

Looking at the bigger picture, EPWP Phase 3 has created 4.3 million work opportunities over the last three-and-a-half years.

The Eastern Cape Province is leading in terms of annual provincial targets – 71,000 work opportunities from 1 April 2018 to 30 September 2018.

The plan for Phase 4 – 2020 to 2025 is being finalized and will be submitted to Cabinet for approval. There are two proposed targets, 5 million and 6 million work opportunities - depending on the funding available from the National Treasury.

Phase 4 of EPWP will focus on the following:

1. Strengthening monitoring and evaluation and improve compliance to the EPWP Guidelines;
2. Improve targeting on youth focused programmes and increase participation by women;
3. Rolling out work opportunities for Green Jobs across all four sectors

4. Performance improvement and outcome measurement will be achieved through the introduction of Social Audits – in other words measuring the positive effects of projects on communities.

Today's event is testimony to the fact that this government delivers on their commitments.

Working together we are able to do more, through the partnerships we have with all interested and affected stakeholders, we will be able to improve the work done even more as we address the challenges facing the country.

That's all from me. And to the Nomaxabiso VEP Project I say: keep up the good work. And a big thanks to Nissan for enabling you to work even more effectively.

Thank you.