



public works

Department:
Public Works
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

Launch of the Kwa-Zakhele (Ward 20) EPWP Project

30 April 2014

Keynote Address;

TW Nxesi, Minister of Public Works

PROTOCOL (CHECK)

- Programme Director - MEC for Social Development, Women, Children and People with Disabilities, MEC Pemmy Majodina
- Premier N Kievit
- MEC for Public Works – MEC Thandiwa Marawu
- Executive Mayor of Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality, Cllr Ben Fihla
- Mayor B. Faku
- Government officials – national, provincial and municipal
- CEO and Chairperson of IDT – Ms Nendwamutsu and Dr Fikeni
- Representatives of Non-Profit Organisations
- Community members, residents of Ward 20 and – most importantly - beneficiaries of the projects
- Ladies and gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to participate in this important event – the launch of EPWP projects in Kwa-Zakhele Ward 20.

This project is the result of an earlier visit to the area during August 2013. During the visit, I observed the suffering caused by inadequate service delivery in the area. The specific issues identified were: unemployment, sanitation, waste management, health related problems and lack of housing development.

At the meeting held earlier this year, with all the stakeholders, the following were identified as the projects that can be implemented, namely:

- Home Community Based Care – ie looking after sick persons in their homes
- Poverty alleviation through Job Creation, and
- Food Security through Backyard/Community Vegetable Gardens

The 200 beneficiaries that will be identified will work under a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) that will have been contracted by the IDT – Independent Development Trust.

The following are the activities that were agreed on for the smooth running of the project

- Cllr Bongo Nombiba will submit to IDT the data base of 200 beneficiaries with ID copies and clients to be serviced in Ward 20. The kind of work to be done by the beneficiaries will include the following
 - Home Based Care
 - Community Gardening, and
 - Cleaning of facilities such as schools

- Community profiling will be done by the IDT, DSD, DOH and DRDALR – this is so that we have a clear picture and understanding of the challenges

in Ward 20 and what we need to plan to do over the long-term.

- SASSA will conduct a mini workshop on their offerings in the area. The Council and ward committees will identify the beneficiaries to be assisted to receive grants and submit the list to the SASSA office for further assistance.
- Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality will be implementing the Working for Water Programme in Ward 20 that will result in 10 beneficiaries being employed.
- The employed beneficiaries will be eligible to receive stipends from the IDT as soon as the programme is implemented.

In conclusion the project will create 200 work opportunities. It will be an NPO – non-profit - driven project.

EPWP Non-State Sector Programme

I need to explain the government's strategy here. The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is one element within a broader government strategy to reduce poverty through the alleviation and reduction of unemployment.

Phase I of the Expanded Public Works Programme (2004 – 2009) had the goal of creating 1 million work opportunities over its first five years.

Phase II (2009-2014) of the EPWP is an extension of the first phase with the following additions: the scale of the programme has increased significantly – in response to the global economic crash in 2008. The programme aims to provide 4.5 million work opportunities. We are on course to meet this target.

The Non State Sector Programme (NSS) uses wage subsidies to support Non-State Sector entities in their community development initiatives. Only Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's), Community Based Organisations (CBO's), and Faith Based Organisations (FBO's) can directly participate in the Non-State Sector Programme.

The Non- State Sector Programme comprises of the Community Works Programme (CWP) and the Non-Profit Organisations. The Community Works Programme is area based and it is managed by the Department of Cooperative Governance (DCOG). The Non-Profit Organisations Programme is managed by the Department of Public Works. The Non-State Sector Programme has set a target of 640 000 work opportunities.

The purpose of the Non-State Sector programme is:

- To create an avenue where Non-Profit Organisation's can assist government in creating income for large numbers of individuals through socially constructive activities in their local communities;
- To provide accredited training to beneficiaries so that at the end of the day beneficiaries are prepared to exist into full time jobs in line with the 6 job drivers of governments' new growth path; and
- To encourage municipalities to utilize the human capacity of NPO's - funded by the Non-State Sector Programme - in developing local communities.

The Non-State Sector programme adheres to the following guidelines:

- The programmes must create work opportunities for unemployed people;

- The programmes must be labour intensive;
- The programmes must be implemented by Non-Profit Organisations ; and
- The outputs and outcomes of the activities should benefit society and/ or communities where they are being implemented and should have a focus on the poor.

In order to be eligible – and to safeguard government resources - NPO's must:

- Be registered as an NPO (NGO, CBO or FBO) with the Department of Social Development.
- Have a solid plan to expand by creating EPWP work opportunities, and align to EPWP principles of focusing on poor unemployed South Africans.
- Have proof of capacity for scaling up those Programmes that would generate increased employment.

- Be highly labour intensive.
- Have been in operation for +3 years (this is to ensure that credible entities with good track record participate, and at the same time, allows for medium sized entities to participate).
- Have good financial, administrative and reporting systems.
- Have a community development focus.

Returning to today's Launch, I am very encouraged to read the list of NPOs from Cascadu area who are attending – and the important work they are doing. Let me list them:

- ***Sophakama Development Based Community Care*** – created 208 work opportunities in Home Based Care, OVC (*counselling for people living*

with HIV), frail care & child care and Door to Door HIV/AIDS campaign.

- ***Masizakhe Community Project*** – created 149 work opportunities in Early Childhood Development, peer education, Home Based Care and OVC.
- ***Vukukhanye Productive Health Programme*** – created 250 work opportunities in Home Based Care, OVC, Early Childhood Development and peer education.
- ***Lighthouse Community Development Initiative*** – created 100 work opportunities in Door to Door HIV/AIDS campaign, grass cutting and cleaning graves, community, schools and parks. The NSS programme addressed the need of the community for home based care workers who do home visits, treatment adherence, bathing and feeding the bedridden people.

- ***Vezokuhle Youth Development Project*** – created 250 Work Opportunities in gardening, grass cutting, Early Childhood Development, peer education and skills transfer. Through this programme 30% of participants were absorbed into public institutions e.g. clinics and schools. In October 2013, 150 females from the programme received baking training from Anchor Yeast to enable them to start small businesses.
- ***Ebenezer Centre*** – created some 350 work opportunities in training schools, Youth Development, Early Childhood Development, OVC, job preparation and treatment literacy. 81 food gardens were established by the health care workers in Missionvale. 500 people per day over the 9 months have been fed meals through this programme. For the year, 80 000 meals were prepared and distributed.

- ***Lithemba Support Group*** – created 30 work opportunities in Door to Door HIV/AIDS campaign, grass cutting, waste management, prevention of soil erosion and Home Based Care.
- ***Emmanuel Haven*** – created 250 work opportunities in Home Based Care, OVC, Gardening, Door to Door HIV/AIDS campaign and Early Childhood Development. Over the past 6 years more than 2,000 work opportunities have been created since the beginning of the partnership.
- ***PE Childline*** – created 13 work opportunities in Home Based Care, OVC, Door to Door HIV/AIDS campaign, Early Childhood Development, peer education, Life skills and Presentation Skills.

You can see from these few example – examples which are replicated a thousand-fold across every province and municipality in South Africa – you can

see that EPWP is making a difference and has a good story to tell.

But it is not enough. In the context of global economic crisis since 2008 – which has caused our own economy to slow-down – thus limiting the capacity of the economy to create jobs; in this context, the role of Public Employment Schemes – such as EPWP and CWP becomes even more vital.

Government has recognised that we have to up-scale and embed public employment schemes across government and across many aspects of the economy.

Over the last 5 years we have created 4.5 million short-term job opportunities. So when we say we will create a further 6 million job opportunities over the next 5 years, we know what we are talking about.

The leader of the DA called these ‘bogus jobs’:

- She doesn't understand the depth of the economic crisis we face – which is being felt by the poor and unemployed.
- She hasn't read the NDP (National Development Plan) – which she claims to support – which sees a central role for public job creation schemes for the foreseeable future.
- She doesn't understand the scale of government's response and the success we have had hitherto; and
- She doesn't understand what is going on in her own backyard. The Western Cape – Cape Town in particular - has fully embraced EPWP projects.

In phase 3 of EPWP we have said that we will create 6 million work opportunities over a five year period – 2014-2019.

The objective of the EPWP Phase 3 is *“To provide work opportunities and income support to poor and unemployed people through the labour-intensive*

delivery of public and community assets and services, thereby contributing to development.”

EPWP employment targets for vulnerable groups for Phase 3 are as follows:

- Women 55%
- Youth between 16 and 35 years 55%
- Persons with disabilities 2%

But it is not just about numbers. Historically EPWP has provided a social safety net for those who are unemployed but do not receive social grants. EPWP also provides an opportunity for work experience and training.

In many cases EPWP projects also restore people's sense of pride and dignity. They are working – for which they receive a stipend – which in turn allows them to contribute to their families.

In Phase 3 we are also looking at EPWP in new and creative ways, eg:

- More permanent part-time work – eg for road maintenance;
- Greater emphasis on training;
- Projects linked to ‘greening’ and sustainability such as the ‘Working for Water’ project;
- Community based projects – with community participation - to improve local infrastructure, and
- The expansion of social services to communities – such as ECD, and home-based health care.

Other key elements of EPWP Phase 3 include:

- Enforce compliance to the EPWP minimum wage and employment conditions
- Improve selection processes for beneficiaries
- Increase community participation to foster ownership in poor communities
- More emphasis on monitoring of assets created and their impact on communities.

We need to remind ourselves – and our people – that since 1994 government has delivered. There can be absolutely no doubt that South Africa is a better place to live in today than it was in 1994. Indeed it is very necessary that we remind our people of where we come from and the progress we have made.

How quickly we forget the dark days of oppression and exploitation under apartheid!

As we prepare for elections in 2014, I like to make the following points – especially to the ‘doubting thomases’:

First, it is your right and duty to criticise government officials and representatives when we do not deliver.

I would be the first to admit that mistakes have been made. A large part of my job as Minister of Public

Works is exactly to address these mistakes and to root out the tenderpreneurs and corrupt elements.

But, let us never forget that it was the Alliance – led by the ANC – which after decades of struggle and sacrifice – brought down the Apartheid regime. The same Alliance remains the only vehicle capable of defending and consolidating our National Democratic Revolution and taking us forward into a radical phase of economic and social transformation.

I thank you.