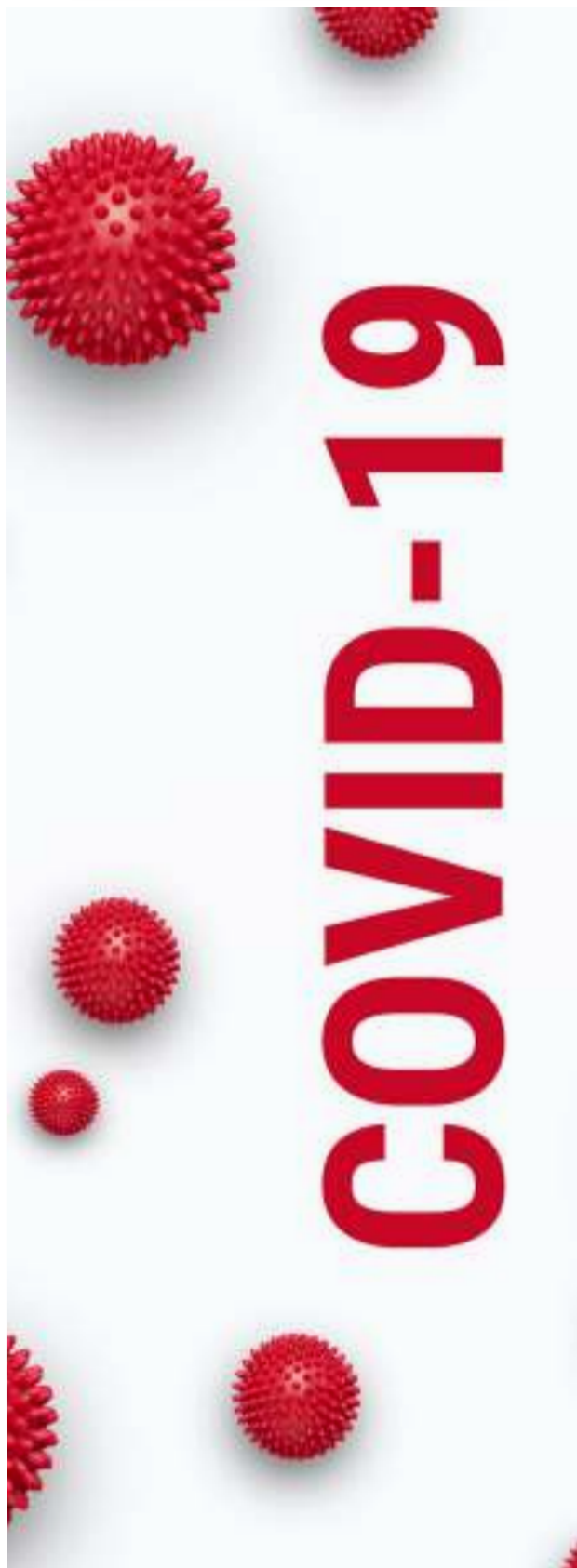


17 April 2020



GOVERNMENT TO DEPLOY 25 000 EPWP PARTICIPANTS TO ASSIST WITH COVID19



The government plans to deploy 25 000 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants to assist with COVID 19 measures. The participants will be deployed across 44 districts and 8 metropolitan municipalities across the country.

The deployment of participants is as a results of the partnerships between government departments that are implementing the EPWP and various Non Profit Organization (NPOs). The participants will be contracted to COVID19 work for 3 months.

The work of the contracted participants will be to:

- Assist public health education and awareness programme linked to the Department of Health Hygiene Strategy.
- Assist the Department of Health (DoH) as it ramps up public screening initiatives. The participants will also assist in the referral of members of the public who are possibly infected to nearest testing sites. EPWP participants will NOT do testing as it (testing) is done medical professionals from DoH.
- Provide support to quarantine sites in the form of provision of cooking service and surface cleaning of public places.

Before the deployment, the Department of Health (DoH) will ensure that the participants are trained, briefed and protected.

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) will provide participants with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to ensure that they are properly protected before they go out to communities.

The DPWI has commenced with the procurement of personal protective equipment (PPEs), finalizing service level agreement with NPOs that are compliant to the requirements of the Central Supplier Database, and develop a distribution list of participants per NPO, province, and district.

The contracting of NPOs and the recruitment of EPWP participants is set to be completed by the end of this week.

The DPWI Minister Ms Patricia de Lille has also requested Minister Zweli Mkhize (Minister of Health) to urgently identify in which wards, districts and Metropolitan areas the need will arise first to recruit the necessary EPWP participants so that deployment can be prioritized.

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