

Expanded Public Works Programme Recognises the Best Performing Public Bodies

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is a Government initiative led by the Department of Public Works (DPW), aimed at reducing poverty and unemployment through the provisioning of training and work opportunities for unemployed South Africans.

All public bodies at national, provincial and Local Government level are required to ensure the use of direct expenditure towards goods and services that create additional work opportunities for unemployed individuals and emerging enterprises, primarily by using labour-intensive methods and increased skills development in Government-funded service delivery projects.

The annual Kamoso Awards aim to recognise and reward municipalities, provinces, departments and public bodies who have excelled in implementing the EPWP in all four sectors, namely, Infrastructure, Social, Non-state, and Environment and Culture.

The Minister of Public Works, Mr TW Nxesi, congratulates the following Kamoso winners under the Infrastructure Sector:

Best Construction Project

Roads and Storm Water Phase 3, Umjindi Local Municipality (Mpumalanga)

Umjindi Local Municipality started this programme in support of the National Government initiatives with a medium- to long-term plan of implementing the roads and storm water project identified within the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) priority list. The project commenced on 13 September 2010 and was completed on 19 August 2011.

The objectives of the project were to: • Empower the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) beneficiaries in the project with training and skills transfer • Implement the EPWP Learnership programme using the EPWP guidelines • Participate in National Government's long-term plan of poverty reduction and job creation by creating work opportunities within the Umjindi Municipality • Empower local emerging contractors through subcontracting on a short- and long-term basis • Address service delivery backlogs by developing roads and storm water master plan infrastructure.

Training and Achievements

A training programme was conducted to empower local labourers and improve their capacity in the construction industry.

The following courses were offered: • First Aid • Health and Safety in the construction industry • Concrete kerbs – laying and construction of drain concrete slabs.

Project Impact

Through the project, about 26 work opportunities were created during the 2010/2011 financial year. Beneficiaries received workplace training and competency certificates. Four local emerging contractors benefited from the project by providing skilled and unskilled expertise. Local suppliers also benefited by supplying local material such as heavy equipment, sand, crusher stones and transport.

Best Maintenance Project

Siyatentela Programme (Mpumalanga)

Siyatentela seeks to address the challenges of poverty and unemployment and also play a vital role in the routine maintenance of the provincial network as an EPWP project. The programme is funded entirely by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport. The Department provides the EPWP beneficiaries with protective clothing, working tools, as well as payment of the stipend. The project commenced on 1 April 2011 and ended 31 March 2012.

Description of the project: Maintain the road drainage system consisting of channels, side-drains, mitre drains, dish drains, culverts, backfilling of potholes on gravel roads, manholes, inlets and outlets, installation and fixing of guardrails and road signs and construction of gabions.

The objectives of the project were to: • Empower rural women by providing training on road maintenance and other life skills programmes • Provide cost-effective, labour-intensive methods of routine maintenance on the Mpumalanga provincial road network • Provide ongoing and sustainable work for extremely poor households in an effort to break their poverty cycles.



Achievements

The programme has employed a total of 5 370 beneficiaries, maintaining 2 685km of road networks in the Province.

Project Impact

For households: It provided a source of income for people who previously did not have it, and supplied beneficiaries with skills to either form cooperatives or find other permanent employment.

Benefit to the communities: • Rural communities were provided with work opportunities in an effort to alleviate poverty • Road users were benefited by roads becoming more user friendly due to increased visibility (no overgrown grass obstructing road signs).