



# Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Social Sector Conference



The National Department of Public Works and the Department of Social Development co-hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Social Sector conference from 4-8 March 2013 at Mittah Seperepere Convention Centre in Kimberley, Northern Cape.

The 5-day National EPWP Social Sector conference which was held under the theme "EPWP Social Sector United in Action towards Socio-Economic Freedom" aimed at the following: • Evaluating progress made since the EPWP conference in 2012 • Deliberations on strategic issues, review legislative frameworks and five key priorities of government • Expansion of work opportunities to the unemployed, particularly youth • The conference will lay a foundation for EPWP Phase 3 • Align the outcome of the conference to National Development Plan (NDP).

During the Conference, the Deputy Minister of Social Development, Mrs Maria Bongi Ntuli, announced that the EPWP Social Sector has since April 2009 to December 2012 (phase 2) created 630 000 work opportunities to the poor unemployed South Africans. "While we have recorded notable progress in the first and second phase implementation of this Programme, we are conscious that success does not come by chance, but is the product of deliberate planning and commitment. And that is what makes this gathering so important," said Deputy Minister Ntuli during her keynote address.

The delegates also discussed the inclusion of people with disabilities in the Programme, with the view of addressing inequalities, poverty and unemployment within the communities. Currently the prevalence of disability

in South Africa is estimated to be between 5-6% with sensory and mental disability being the highest.

The following are some of the Resolutions undertaken during the EPWP Social Sector conference:

- Assist provinces with sustainability guidelines for Incentive Grant beneficiaries linking with Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) allocations
- Support process for employment and deployment of data capturers dedicated to the Social Sector
- Cascade protocols from Premiers to implementing departments
- Convene a meeting of Social Sector Director-Generals to revive and ensure full participation of national and provincial sector departments
- Advocate EPWP amongst organisations of People with Disabilities
- Lobby for placement and exit opportunities for EPWP beneficiaries
- Negotiate and mobilise resources to fund exit plans, including bursaries and Learnerships
- Convene discussions with relevant SETAs to deliberate on fast tracking access of National Skills Fund to sector beneficiaries
- Ensure the funding of municipal Social Sector projects through the Integrated Incentive Grant.



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