



The Expanded Public Works Programme flaunts its success yet again

By Lesego Moretlwe and Eric Mkhunjulwa



In its quest to recognise national, provincial, local and other public bodies for their excellent implementation of the EPWP, the government hosted the Annual Ministerial Kamoso Awards on 17 August 2012 at the Birchwood Hotel in Boksburg, Gauteng.

The Kamoso Awards, which were first held in 2007, with the Department of Public Works (DPW) as the lead and coordinator, rewards the most exceptional implementers of the EPWP across all EPWP four sectors.

The nomination categories have increased tremendously – from 15 categories in 2007 to 33 categories in 2012. This is a sign of the significant expansion of EPWP initiatives to create work opportunities for unemployed South Africans through labour-intensive methods.

The Minister of Public Works, Mr TW Nxesi, together with the Deputy Minister, Mr Jeremy Cronin, attended this prestigious ceremony. They were joined on stage by other dignitaries to hand over trophies and certificates to the winners as they were announced for their outstanding performance.

The Acting Director-General of the DPW, Ms Mandisa Fatyela-Lindie, MECs, executive mayors, municipal managers, councillors, chief executive officers and representatives of supporting entities and

senior government officials were among the delegates who attended the ceremony to honour and support EPWP implementers.

Since the launch of EPWP Phase 2 in 2009, over two million work opportunities have been created, thus positioning the programme as one of the key catalysts of government's initiative to create work opportunities and contribute to the Millennium Development Goals.

The ceremony also marked an increase in the number of public bodies, particularly municipalities, who are implementing the EPWP. About 277 out of 278 municipalities have signed participation protocols to use their budgets for the procurement of goods and services using labour-intensive methods, as set out in the EPWP guidelines, in order to contribute to job creation, skills development and improved service delivery.

In his keynote address, Mr Nxesi acknowledged the hard work and dedication displayed by the EPWP implementers and offered support to the implementing bodies in addressing the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality, as identified by the President in his State of the Nation Address in February 2012. "Our task as the DPW is to lead a concerted effort from all spheres of government, business, public bodies and all other role players to implement the EPWP, optimise

the allocated resources and address the challenges identified by the President."

He also emphasised the impact of the programme in improving the socio-economic status of the EPWP beneficiaries in various communities. The Minister highlighted the allocated budget for the implementation and expansion of the EPWP over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) as follows: "An additional amount of R4,8 billion has been allocated to the EPWP over the MTEF period, bringing the total allocated amount to R77,8 billion. The Community Works Programme received an additional R3,5 billion – adding to a total budget of R6,2 billion, which is aimed at increasing the creation of work opportunities to 332 000 by 2014/15. The Non-State Sector received an additional R345 million, bringing the total allocation to R1,1 billion. The Working for Water and Working on Fire programmes received R1,1 billion, totalling the sum to R7,7 billion in a quest to provide 135 000 jobs over the medium term, and R300 million was added to the Environment and Culture Sector."

In conclusion, the Minister also noted the hard work and commitment of all the role players implementing the EPWP by advancing the excellence of the programme and contributing to the halving of unemployment as well as alleviating poverty in South Africa.

Kamoso Awards Winners For 2012

Sector	Award category	Winners
 Infrastructure	Best construction project	Roads and Storm Water Project – Umjindi Local Municipality (Mpumalanga)
	Best maintenance project	Siyatentela Road Maintenance Project – Department of Transport (Mpumalanga)
	Best public body supporting contractor development	Umsobomvu Vuk'uphile Learnership Programme – Northern Cape
	Best DPW regional office implementing National Youth Service (NYS)	Pretoria regional office
	Best province	KwaZulu-Natal
	Best metropolitan municipality	City of Johannesburg
	Best district municipality	Sisonke District Municipality (KwaZulu-Natal)
	Best local municipality	Mafikeng Local Municipality
	Best provincial department implementing NYS	Mpumalanga
	Recognition of the contribution of state-owned enterprises	Eskom
 Non-State	Best province: non-profit organisation (NPO) programme	KwaZulu-Natal
	Best project: NPO	Kgapamadi Community Organisation – Mpumalanga
	Best innovative project	Pheko ka Kopanelo – Free State
 Environment and Culture	Best project: community works programme	Msinga Community Works Programme – KwaZulu-Natal
	Best province	KwaZulu-Natal
	Best programme	Working on Fire – Department of Environmental Affairs
	Best national project	Provincial Nature Reserve – Goegap (Northern Cape)
	Best provincial project	Leolo Landcare Project – Department of Agriculture (Limpopo)
	Best metropolitan/district municipality	Abi Fire Fighters – Overberg (Western Cape)
 Social	Best local project	Pixley ka Seme Cleaning Campaign – Mpumalanga
	Best innovative project	Sebenzela Emifula – City of Limpopo
	Best province	Western Cape ECD Programme
	Best programme: early childhood development (ECD)	Limpopo School Nutrition Programme
	Best programme: national school nutrition	Gauteng Home Community-Based Care
	Best programme: home and community-based care	Phakamisa ECD – West Coast
	Best project: ECD	Social Auxiliary Workers – Mafikeng
	Best project: home community-based care	Community Safety School Project – Department of Community Safety (Western Cape)
	Best project: community safety	Mass Participation Programme – KwaZulu-Natal
	Best project: mass participation	Eastern Cape Khari Gude Project
Best project: Khari Gude	City of Johannesburg	
Best municipality	City of Johannesburg Community Safety (tourism ambassadors)	
Best innovative project		

The Expanded Public Works Programme rewarding excellence



More than two million work opportunities have been created throughout the country from 01 April 2009 to 31 March 2012 thanks to the Department of Public Works' EPWP and those who implement the EPWP projects.

The programme is a government-wide initiative aimed at drawing poor unemployed people into the world of work in an attempt to fight poverty, unemployment and inequality. To pay tribute to municipalities, provinces and non-profit organisations (NPOs) that have excelled in implementing the EPWP, the department hosted the annual Kamoso Awards ceremony.

Winners in each of the EPWP sectors (namely Infrastructure, Social, Non-State, and Environment and Culture) received certificates and floating trophies for their commitment to eradicating poverty within their respective communities.

The awards seek to encourage government and its partners to increase their efforts in implementing the EPWP. They also communicate and showcase the progress, impact and successes of the EPWP nationally, provide a platform to enhance visibility of the EPWP and reinforce its objectives to the broader public.

Projects that scooped up awards in the various categories included the following:

Infrastructure Sector

1. Best construction project: Roads and Storm Water Phase 3 (Umjindi Local Municipality, Mpumalanga)

This programme in the Umjindi Local Municipality is part of the Integrated Development Plan. It started on 13 September 2010 and was completed on 19 August 2011, creating 26 work opportunities and empowering beneficiaries with training and skills.

2. Best maintenance project: Siyatentela (Mpumalanga)

Tackling the huge challenges of poverty and unemployment in the area, Siyatentela carried out routine maintenance work on the provincial network. The project started on 01 April 2011 and ended on 31 March 2012. Beneficiaries received protective clothing, work tools and a monthly stipend from the department and participated by maintaining road drainage systems such as side drains, filling potholes, erecting road signs and constructing

gabions. The programme employed 5 370 beneficiaries and maintained 2 685 km of road networks in the province.

Social Sector

3. Best innovative project: City of Johannesburg Community Safety Tourism Ambassadors (Gauteng)

The Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department (JMPD) coordinates the city's prevention strategy, which includes effective street lighting in high-risk areas, private security partnerships and partnerships with business in high crime areas. The project creates jobs while reducing crime by employing tourist ambassadors. The ambassadors receive a monthly income that allows them to provide for their families.

The project has created 242 work opportunities so far and 30 beneficiaries have been employed permanently by JMPD, while 17 have been employed by emergency services and five beneficiaries who successfully completed their training have been deployed at tourist attraction sites around Johannesburg.

Environment and Culture Sector

4. Best innovative project: City of Johannesburg Sebenzela Imifula Project (Gauteng) Johannesburg City Parks is the custodian of more than 22 278 hectares of open spaces and green areas aimed at providing citizens with a greener environment. The Clean-Up Joburg Campaign, which maintained trails and wetlands, started on 01 February and was completed on 30 June this year. A total of 92 work opportunities were created, of which 62% were for women and 75% were for youths. This helped to reduce crime, raised awareness, educated the community about caring for the environment and promoted responsibility and a sense of ownership for facilities, rivers and wetlands.

5. Best cooperative project: Rahlagane Table Grapes (Limpopo) Supported by the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and the Small Enterprise Development Agency, the project started on 01 November 2011 and is scheduled to be completed by 30 November this year. Beneficiaries were taught to improve administration, financial management and technical production. The project has to date created 40 work opportunities for EPWP beneficiaries including women, youths and people living with disabilities.

Non-State Sector



6. Best provincial project: Leolo Landcare Project (Tubatse Municipality, Limpopo) The Leolo Landcare Project ran from April 2009 to April 2010. Covering the entire Tubatse Municipality and a portion of the neighbouring Fetakgomo Local Municipality, its core function was to construct gabions. This brought much relief to the Greater Sekhukhune District, which was declared a disaster area characterised by severe land degradation and high unemployment. The project addressed soil conservation, control of alien plants, protection and maintenance of wetlands and improvement of livestock. It employed 258 beneficiaries, including 110 women and 87 youths.



7. Best national project: Goegap Provincial Nature Reserve (Northern Cape) The project started in April 2012 as an ongoing project. It is an initiative of Zamisanani Joint Venture, a company that implements EPWP projects under the Department of Environmental Affairs' Social Responsibility Programme. The venture is 100% black owned and has extensive experience in implementing EPWP projects. In the first month, it employed 236 local people, with the number increasing to 400 soon after. The employed are mainly from Bergsig, Fonteinjie and Caroulsberg in the Springbok area near the Goegap Reserve.

8. Best innovative project: Pheko ka Kopanelo (Free State) Pheko ka Kopanelo, which started in June 2011, cares for terminally ill patients and those suffering from HIV and AIDS. The project has created a total of 300 work opportunities including 34 for men, 52 for women, 33 for people living with disabilities and 181 for youths. The organisation also sponsored 13 students to study at the University of the Free State. About 540 volunteers support the project by giving their time and expertise to HIV and AIDS patients.



9. Best project: Kgapamadi Community Organisation (Mpumalanga) This non-profit organisation (NPO) was established to uplift and develop the people of Ezakheni on the outskirts of KwaMhlanga in the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality in Mpumalanga. The project started in 2006 and is still in progress. It is involved in arts and crafts training; heritage, community construction and development; traditional dancing and music development; community food and vegetable gardens; and community sports development. It also provides a community information centre and a health centre. To date, 300 beneficiaries have been trained.

10. Best project: Masinga Community Work Programme, KwaZulu-Natal This initiative, which started in April 2011, identified the 25 most vulnerable households per ward in Msinga. Each household received fenced gardens, a rainwater harvesting tank, an irrigation system and a storage facility. The Community Work Programme, funded by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, provides funding to train participants in the construction industry. They receive accredited certification for basic house building, which is recognised by contractors. So far, a total of 25 EPWP beneficiaries have been trained. Apart from repairing roads around Msinga, they have built toilets and bathrooms for local schools that were in dire need of such facilities. More than 100 households have benefited from the project

Glitz & glamour

at the Kamoso Awards



Limpopo Department of Public Works hosts its first Expanded Public Works summit

By Ntiyiso Chauke and Eric Mkhunjulwa



The EPWP in Limpopo hosted its first-ever, provincial summit from 12 to 13 July 2012, at the St Marco Hall, in Polokwane. The theme of the summit was Towards Poverty Alleviation Through Intensifying Job Creation.

The summit aimed to build on the foundation laid by the two national EPWP municipal summits organised by the Department of Public Works in 2010 and 2011. The summit also aimed to assess the progress made by the province in the implementation of the national summits' resolutions.

The objectives of the summit were to:

- assess the performance against targets for the province on EPWP Phase 2;
- develop plans to accelerate the implementation of the programme by municipalities and departments;
- increase draw-down of the incentive grant;
- increase the number of work opportunities reported by municipalities and departments.

In her keynote address, the MEC of Public Works in Limpopo, Ms Thabitha Mohlala, highlighted some of the challenges facing the province. Among others, she mentioned the lack of planning, lack of prioritisation with regard to maintenance, high staff turnover (which impacts on capacity development for implementing bodies), reduction of EPWP to small-scaled projects and problems with EPWP reporting systems.

However, MEC Mohlala said that on the positive side Limpopo Premier, Cllr Cassel Mathale, had launched the EPWP Wednesday Campaign 2011/2012, which was supported by the Executive Council, including the mayors of the five respective districts. This campaign is aimed at actively marketing the EPWP, encouraging implementing agents to report on work opportunities created, promoting job creation and ensuring that the public understands the opportunities available to them within the programme.

The EPWP Chief Director of the Infrastructure Sector, Mr Ignatius Ariyo, who made a presentation on behalf of the Deputy Director-General EPWP, highlighted the impact of the EPWP in reducing unemployment, improving infrastructure such as roads, and creating projects that assist communities to survive and to have reduced crime rates.

He also mentioned that reports by municipalities in the province have progressively increased – from 28 by 2010/11 to 30 in 2012/13.

He further said that the goal of EPWP Phase 2 was to create 4,5 million work opportunities (equivalent to 2 million full-time jobs) for poor and unemployed South Africans to contribute to halving unemployed by 2014 through the delivery of public and community services. The proposed targets of work opportunities are 55% for women, 40% for youth and 2% for people with disabilities.

Mr Zamile Wiseman from the EPWP in the Eastern Cape said that they have declared September as EPWP Month and the objective is to improve the quality of EPWP data, systematically implement performance information processes, build a cadre of officials who specialise in labour-intensive

methodologies, and outline site visits as one of the methods to achieve these objectives.

On the last day of the summit, the commissions representing the EPWP sectors of infrastructure, non-state, environment and culture, and social, as well as the Institutional Arrangement Committee, gathered to discuss progress and challenges that face the programme across all sectors, and to map a way forward.

The resolutions of the summit were:

- The national Department of Public Works and the Limpopo Department of Public Works will intensify technical support provided to municipalities, including follow-up training to municipal officials on labour-intensive construction (NQF 5 and 7) and incorporate the EPWP during consultant briefing sessions.
- Support from the International Labour Organisation should be optimised.
- Municipalities and departments must provide dedicated capacity to coordinate EPWP implementation and reporting for all sectors.
- The EPWP will be incorporated in the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) processes, work opportunity targets will be aligned as agreed to in the protocol agreements and all sectors should be presented with clear project lists.
- IDP projects will be implemented using a multi-year planning approach with 18 months of planning before projects commence, working hand-in-hand with sector departments in coordinating all the programmes.
- Municipalities will make use of their own budgets and not be funded through conditional grants for EPWP implementation.
- Municipalities should identify sectors (e.g. Social, Environment and Culture for culture and heritage conservation projects, and Non-State and Infrastructure for expansion programmes relevant to the needs of the community) and prioritise projects with a longer duration.
- The support of the provincial Department of Public Works should be permanently decentralised to district level.
- Sector committees or existing structures at district level should be used to ensure that sector issues are dealt with at district level. They should also ensure that district forums are fully functional.
- All section 57 managers responsible for rendering services must include EPWP targets in their performance contracts and report on this monthly.
- Municipalities and departments must appoint data capturers, and the data-flow process should be resolved at municipal level.
- Municipalities must develop EPWP policies and ensure that municipal councils endorse them to ensure EPWP implementation in municipalities. Supply-chain policies must be amended to include EPWP requirements.
- The EPWP should be a standing item on management meetings of local municipalities and quarterly mayoral committee meetings.