



public works

Department:
Public Works
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Expanded Public Works Programme

Launch of EPWP Phase 3

Theme: 'Changing many lives for the better'

*Amahlathi Community Work Programme,
Keiskammahoek, 3rd October 2014*

**Introduction of the President
by**

Mr TW Nxesi MP, Minister of Public Works

Protocol

- Programme Director
- His Excellency the President of the Republic of South Africa
- Ministers and Deputy Ministers
- The Premier of the Eastern Cape, and other premiers present
- MECs
- The Executive Mayor of the Amathole District and the Mayor of the Amahlathi Local Municipality, and all other mayors present
- Councillors
- DGs and government officials
- Most importantly EPWP and CWP practitioners and participants.
- Ladies and gentlemen

It is an honour and a pleasure to introduce the President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency, Mr Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma, who of course really needs no introduction from me.

Mr President I want to thank you for your continued support for the Expanded Public Works Programme which plays such a critical role in improving the lives of the poor unemployed in our country.

The EPWP is a key part of government's strategy to combat, what the President has described as: 'the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality.' This is reflected in the theme of today's ceremony to mark the launch of Phase 3 of EPWP. The theme is:

'EPWP – changing many lives for the better.'

The theme reflects two things:

- The increased targets for Phase 3 – to create 6 million work opportunities between 2014 and 2019;

- Equally, we are saying it is not just about the numbers. In Phase 3 we seek to also improve the quality and impact of the EPWP projects through:
 - A greater emphasis on training to equip individuals to earn a living;
 - Greater attention to the quality of the services that are provided and the new assets and facilities created in communities;
 - This necessarily involves facilitating greater community participation and ownership of projects.

The target of 6 million work opportunities for Phase 3, announced by the President in the State of the Nation Address and enshrined in the ANC 2014 Election Manifesto represents a sacred commitment and pledge to the people of South Africa.

Mr President, I want to assure you that, as the Department of Public Works – responsible for coordinating the Expanded Public Works Programme – we take that commitment very seriously. Indeed, we have said that delivering on the EPWP targets is the number one priority of my Department over the five years of this Administration.

Let me hasten to add that EPWP is not the property of Public Works. It is a cross-cutting programme of government and involves a number of departments and all spheres of government. Examples include:

- the Working for Water programme led by the Department of Environmental Affairs which contributes hugely to conserving the country's water resources;
- the Community Work Programme – an example of which we see here today - which is led by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs; and

- the social sector programmes – particularly Early Child Development and Home-Based Health Care - led by the Department of Social Development.

We are confident that we will deliver on the Phase 3 targets, for the following reasons:

- The EPWP has a long and successful track record of delivering 5,5 million work opportunities over the last ten years;
- The EPWP model works by mobilising all relevant government departments and agencies across all the spheres of government – and more recently involving non-profit, community and faith based organisations.
- The model was further strengthened with the establishment of the Presidential Public Employment Inter-Ministerial Committee (PPE-IMC) exactly to strengthen planning and coordination of programmes and resources.

Truly, in the case of EPWP, we can confidently assert that working together we can achieve so much more.

Ladies and gentlemen please welcome his Excellency, the President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma.