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# More money to boost employment programmes

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HUNDREDS of thousands of jobs will be created in the next financial year through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). And the government will also boost non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other departments to create more jobs in various sectors of the economy.

Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan said yesterday funding for employment programmes had increased by 13.5%.

This is an increase from R41.7bn during the 2012-13 financial year to R61bn by 2015-16 period.

He said NGOs would receive increased funding from the government over their employment projects.

The programme would create more than 684 000 jobs in the 2013-14 financial year. During the 2012-13 financial

year the EPWP programme created 502 174 jobs.

According to the Treasury's budget review, these EPWP jobs were full-time. The government has reprioritised R247.5m from the infrastructure and

environmental programmes at local government level to EPWP programmes that support employment projects in the NGO sector.

The budget review said that the EPWP programme would be reviewed

during the 2013-14 financial year.

"This review will inform the third phase of the programme, which will start in 2014 with higher employment targets," said the budget review.

The review also stated that the Department of Labour was being given R183m to improve sheltered employment factories, which provide jobs for workers with disabilities.

"The department also receives R380m to boost the capacity of the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration in preparation for amendments to labour legislation," said the budget review.

The budget review said funds had also been allocated for the Working for Fisheries programme.

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has been allocated R171m for the programme and

**comment**

TNA REPORTER

**NAZEEM Martin, MD of Business Partners Limited, said yesterday that while the Expanded Public Works Programme was essentially a good thing, it was not sustainable in the long term.**

**"It provides social infrastructure, such as clinics, roads, schools etc - which is good, but are not sustainable," he said.**

**Martin said a significant boost in employment would be the result of bigger infrastructural programmes.**

**"We need to see the building of infrastructure such as power plants if we want to see jobs in the long term," he said.**

**He explained that, with time, investing in bigger infrastructural programs positively affected the economy.**



**QUICK FACTS**

- » Funding for employment programmes up 13.5%
- » Increases from R41.7bn to R61bn by 2015-16
- » NGOs will get more funding
- » EPWP programme to create 684 000 jobs this year

other projects in the department and its entities.

This funding will increase to R214m during the 2014-15 financial year and to R364m in the following financial year.  
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