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Light's on public works

Deputy minister hosts public works conference that tackles poverty alleviation

ZANDISILE LUPHAHLA

THE Deputy Minister of Social Development, Maria Ntuli, will be hosting the extended public works programme (EPWP) social sector conference at the Mittah Seperepere Convention Centre in Kimberley today.

Public Works Minister Thulas Nxesi presented an overview of the EPWP at a gala dinner last night.

EPWP is one of government's programmes aimed at providing poverty and income relief.

This is through the provision of temporary work for the unemployed to carry out socially useful activities.

Department spokesperson Lumka Oliphant said the conference would evaluate progress made since the EPWP Conference in 2012.

"It will also serve as a learning forum for all stakeholders, which means it will serve as an accountability platform for



CONFERENCE: Deputy Minister of Social Development Maria Ntuli will host the conference. PICTURE: NEO MVUBU

the different partners in the sector," she said.

Oliphant said a review of the work conducted by the implementing departments in the financial year would also be on the agenda.

"We will deliberate on strategic policy initiatives as pronounced by the government, identify new areas of expansion for the sector to achieve set targets and plan for the coming financial year," she said.

The conference will be run under the theme of EPWP social sector united in action towards socio-economic freedom.

"Deliberations at the conference will provide a platform to discuss, among other issues, youth unemployment, the national development plan and active citizenry," she said.

Oliphant said there would be commissions throughout the conference to discuss socio-economic challenges.

"People who benefited from the EPWP social sector conferences will have an opportunity as well to participate and share their experiences," Oliphant said.

Other stakeholders and partners expected to attend include the departments of public works, cooperative governance and traditional affairs and the South African local government association.

zandisile@thenewage.co.za