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# Decent work and sustainable livelihoods

The Free State provincial government embarked on an intensive job creation drive through the use of labour-intensive approaches such as the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). The province has upscaled EPWP in order to significantly increase labour absorption. We improved our job creation opportunities through EPWP from 18,115 in 2009/2010 to 32 108 during 2010/2011. In 2011/2012, EPWP created 45,126 work opportunities and 14,246 full time equivalent jobs.



**Job opportunities created:** The Free State provincial government has prioritised youth in these EPWP job opportunities (representing 58% average of total) as well as women (representing 51% average of total). Approximately R567 million has been paid-out as wages to beneficiaries who took part in the 5 376 EPWP projects. The focus was on creating employment opportunities in especially small rural towns through the renovation and/or upgrading of various government buildings and other infrastructure such as clinics, hospitals, libraries, township roads, provincial roads, community halls, creches and sport facilities.



**Decent Employment:** The provincial job creation drive comprises of a number of programmes and initiatives - be it the implementation of national programmes such as the EPWP, National Youth Service programme, provincial initiatives include Masupatsela Youth Pioneer Programme, SMME cooperatives, Operation Hlasela projects etc and investment projects. The EPWP programmes have included the following:

- Food for Waste programme implemented in the Masilonyana, Metsimaholo and Ngwathe Local Municipalities;
- Cemetery Maintenance Programme implemented in the Mafube, Ngwathe, Masilonyana, Nketoana, and Setsoto Local Municipalities. The programme has now been expanded to Moqhaka and Letsemeng Local Municipalities in the 2012/13 financial year;
- Community Work Programme implemented in Batho, Hennenman, Jacobsdal and Jagersfontein. The programme will be expanded to Mangaung Metro (Botshabelo) and Maluti a Phofung (QwaQwa);
- Township Revitalization Programme implemented in the Matjhabeng, Ngwathe, Mangaung, Moqhaka, Nketoana, Tswelopele, Mafube, Kopanong, Letsemeng, Phumelela municipalities. The programme has now been expanded to Thaba Nchu, Petrusburg and Allanridge.