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Job opportunities uplift disabled

EPWP's work programme lauded for making a difference

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THE provincial public works, roads and transport department's Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) has been applauded by the department after reported 49 014 temporary jobs that were created for the 2012-13 financial year.

Departmental spokesperson, David Nkambule, said the EPWP was part of the government's schedule to strengthen job opportunities at local level.

Nkambule said the programme's contribution had pleased the department because it had exceeded its target of 8 706. It had also played a pivotal role by advancing the lives of people living with disabilities, especially at Thulamahashe in Bushbuckridge municipality, through job opportunities.

He said the EPWP had a sub-programme for the disabled called South African Active Disabled People Association (Saadpa) with over 500 job opportunities.

"The Saadpa is one of the successful projects under the EPWP project which has created a total of 506 job opportunities for the disabled in the



THINGS ARE LOOKING UP: More than 500 disabled people in the province are benefitting from the EPWP project.

province," he said.

The Saadpa was founded in 2003 by John Nxumalo who became disabled after a car accident. It deals with projects such as beadwork, pottery, sewing, weaving, carpentry and farming. Some products are sent to markets in the US.

Nxumalo said plenty of people living

with disabilities were often neglected and abused by family although the project's inception was meant to address the disabled's plight.

"I am very optimistic that Saadpa will grow and become independent and create more jobs for people in the village," Nxumalo said.

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