

# Digging in for more jobs is a high priority

THE Roads and Public Works Department created 53 052 jobs through its roads and building programmes. This means 2 052 people who were not in the target of 51 000, found work.

The department set out to support 240 emerging contractors and had an integrated contractor development programme designed for this which succeeded in backing 219 emerging contractors by December with another three months still to go in the financial year.

Owner of African Vision Project Management emerging contractor Nancy Booi said her road maintenance project allowed her to employ 60 people to work in teams on roads in Mbhashe, Buffalo City Metro, Elliotdale, Engcobo and Dutywa.

A widow with two children to raise, she said the support from the department was excellent.

"It's hard work, and there are a lot of challenges but what excited me was that every problem was solved through the programme. We would sit down and sort it out."

Booi has a diploma in civil engineering and project management and National Qualification Framework to level 5 (NQF5) (supervisory level) and has done a course in construction management.

"If you focus on it, you will see the fruit. I appreciate this pro-



**NANCY BOOI**

gramme."

As a woman in the industry since 2007, it has been tough but the support she received from the department had helped build her business, she said.

The department's artisan development programme trained 827 apprentices last year and in December, 117 passed their trade test and graduated to become qualified artisans, 37 more than the target set of 80.

The National Youth Service Programme enrolled 486 youths to be trained in the roads and infrastructure programmes.

In a startling submission, MEC Thandiswa Marawu said the Eastern Cape had created 407 991 work opportunities and was on course to achieve its five-year target of 502 186 work opportunities by 2019.

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