

# Metro to recruit artisans

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## Noxolo Sibiya

Recruiting artisans is a priority for the Tshwane metro, says mayor Solly Msimanga.

Msimanga told the council during his state-of-the-capital address on Thursday that plumbers, electricians and technicians were critical to the city if it were to “expand its delivery capabilities”.

He said increasing the workforce would enable the metro to improve the speed at which it responded to residents’ complaints.

Msimanga said the municipality’s customer care centres had improved since the administration took office.

Close to 300 permanent jobs had been created.

The metro had to “clean-up” the recruitment process before it could create any work opportunities.

Msimanga said significant changes had to be made to the extended public works programme’s (EPWP) recruitment policy to eliminate patronage and nepotism.

“To date, we have held three lotteries – the latest in February – where beneficiaries are randomly chosen, which gives each applicant a fair chance of being selected,” he said.

“Significantly, the City designed the database in such a manner that we can appoint EPWP beneficiaries by their age, the ward where they live, their skill set and their gender, without referring to their political affiliation.”

The programme would create close to 23 000 jobs: 12 200 in the infrastructure sector, 10 250 in the social sector and 550 in the environmental and cultural sector.

Some of the projects that have already seen 6 125 people employed include the Garsfontein water network replacement, Prasa’s initiative to restore railway lines in Tshwane, and re-gravelling and maintenance operations of roads in Bronkhorstspuit.

A project initiated by the department of roads and transport to assist job seekers with free transport in Bronkhorstspuit was launched.

Msimanga said one area per day was provided with two buses to ferry jobseekers to and from the dedicated location for CV submissions.

“In one week, more than 5 000 unemployed people were provided with free transport to submit their CVs,” he said.

Msimanga said the metro had also joined a programme to train people through the SA Institute of Chartered Accountants.