

# EPWP to support more people with disabilities

**Gugu Myeni**

THE Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) will increase the participation of people with disabilities within the next two years.

According to the Department of Public Works, more than 4.5 million people have benefited from Phase 3 of the programme in the past five financial years.

This number comprises 66% women, 44% youth and 1% people living with disabilities.

'Phase 4 will be replicating and expanding existing initiatives such as safety programmes, early childhood development, tourism programme and road and building maintenance.

'In addition, we will improve

youth participation through expanding the National Youth Service, Youth Environmental Service and Youth Ambassadors.

'We project that over the five years of implementation, a total of R41-billion will be transferred to EPWP programmes,' Public Works Minister Patricia de Lille said during her budget vote speech last week.

She said it is however, concerning that some municipalities use their allocations to fund core functions instead of employing people at decent rates and placing them on municipal wage bills.

'The practise of using EPWP allocations to perform core functions must stop,' she said.

Earlier this year, former KZN

MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, Ravi Pillay officially launched Phase 4 of the EPWP at eSikhaleni TVET College.

'It is without doubt that EPWP remains a contributor in the creation of work opportunities.

'It uplifts governance towards youth and women development through skills transfer, training and development of beneficiaries within all-inclusive EPWP sectors, which ultimately advances economic growth within the province,' Pillay said.

King Cetshwayo District Mayor Nonhle Mkhulisi said the initiative has helped more than 1 000 people in the district to earn a temporary income and thus contribute towards living conditions in their homes.



EPWP workers