

■ HONOUR

Programme wins bronze at Future Policy Awards

STAFF WRITER

THE Department of Public Works and Infrastructure's expanded public works programme (EPWP) has won bronze at the Future Policy Award 2019 ceremony in Belgrade, Serbia, for the implementation of its youth empowerment policies.

Deputy Minister Noxolo Kiviet said the accolade meant that the work being done in developing and implementing policies that enhance the empowerment of young people was making a difference.

The EPWP is one of government's short- to medium-term programmes to reduce unemployment and alleviate poverty through the creation of work opportunities using labour-intensive methods.

Young people are empowered through various programmes including the national youth services programme, a year-long skills training and development intervention that provides unemployed South African youth with technical skills, life skills, access to practical work experience, mentoring and opportunities for future employment.

"Youth unemployment remains a massive issue in our country where young people have so much to contribute, and every effort must be made by government and the private sector to empower and give opportunities to young people. The EPWP's bronze award is a recognition by the international community of South Africa's role in the socio-economic empowerment and upliftment of young people in the country. The award also high-

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DEPUTY MINISTER

lights proven policies that effectively promote and scale up local, national, regional and international youth empowerment solutions," Kiviet said.

A total of 67 policies from 36 countries contested for the Future Policy Awards.

The World Future Council, together with its partners the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the UN Development Programme, with the support of the office of the UN secretary-general's envoy on youth, the International Labour Organisation, the Youth Policy Lab, Michael Otto Foundation and Jua Foundation, sent out a call for nominations to over 10 000 experts and representatives of international organisations, academia, non-governmental organisations, government agencies and other noted experts.

Eight inspiring and impactful laws and policies aimed at empowering young people to build a fair and sustainable future were recognised at the ceremony.

The winners in various categories were Rwanda, Estonia, Scotland, Nepal, South Africa, Europe, the US, and Senegal.