



Tshwane officials at the launch of Phase 4 of the EPWP.
Photo: Facebook

Metro to create public works jobs

Municipality plans to create 110 000 jobs as city's unemployment rate hits the 23.3% mark.

Reitumetse Mahope

The Tshwane metro wants to create more than 100 000 jobs in this financial year through the extended public works programme (EPWP).

This was announced when the metro launched the Phase 4 job selection process at Tshwane House in the Pretoria CBD.

Tshwane mayor Stevens Mokgalapa said the EPWP was one of the efforts created to reduce unemployment, alleviate poverty, and provide residents with experience through labour-intensive work opportunities.

“The random selection through a live lottery ensures that the DA-led administration remains committed to fairness, compliance, equal opportunities and empowerment,” Mokgalapa said.

He said this was not possible if the system became prone to manipulation, corruption and nepotism.

“The city has set itself a target to create 110 000 jobs in this financial year, through the EPWP.

“This is done in a context to effect redress with 60% of the vacancies filled by women and a new 5% indigent target.”

Mokgalapa said this was a significant increase from the Phase 3 target of 106 000 jobs and a 55% women’s composition.

“Rising unemployment remains a concern, with a 29% rate nationally; the

city’s population of 3.3 million is marred by a 23.3% unemployment rate.

“Without jobs, households risk falling into poverty as a result of constrained resources,” said Mokgalapa.

He said as of November 2019, the database registered over 145 000 jobs.

“It’s clear that the demand for work opportunities surpasses the city’s current capacity to meet this need.”

He said the enormous interest shown by job seekers highlighted the urgency to continue finding solutions to the country’s unemployment crisis, especially for the youth.

“To continue improving the impact and efficiency of the programme, the city is conducting ongoing assessment such as:

- technical support capacity in terms of designing labour-intensive projects;
- building capacity with regard to data capturing and reporting;
- dedicated capacity for coordination within the city.

Mokgalapa said this would provide the city with more granular details of the impact of the programme and its potential to secure a more positive future for Tshwane residents.

“Selection for placement will take place twice a month, largely depending on internal auditing and verification processes.

“Residents will now be more productive through a system that has not been compromised.”