

W O R K

Job growth plan for poor

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WITH the Covid-19 health pandemic leading to mass job losses globally, the government said it will continue to use programmes such as the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) to provide work opportunities to poor and unemployed South Africans.

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) as the lead coordinator of the EPWP announced that the government has created a total of 938 688 EPWP work opportunities during the 2020/21 financial year, from April 2020 to March 2021.

These work opportunities were created through 13 496 EPWP projects implemented across four EPWP sectors, namely Infrastructure, Non-State, Environment and Culture, and Social.

“Through these work opportunities, the government has transferred a total of R9.3 billion as income support to EPWP participants in the 20/21 financial year alone.

“The DPWI observes that more women continue to participate in the EPWP, with over 68% of the participants being women. This shows that the programme is making a meaningful contribution to the improvement of the socio-economic status of Women in terms of opportunities to earn and income.”

KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape continued to lead in the creation of EPWP opportunities – the two provinces created 219 947 and 190 706 respectively.

The Western Cape created 85 454.