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Sessions for expanded public works policy

The department of public works and infrastructure has gazetted the expanded public works programme (EPWP) policy for public comment.

The department developed the policy and it was approved by Cabinet on 31 August for public consultation.

"We are calling on all stakeholders and communities to engage the department during the countrywide public consultation sessions over the next few weeks," the department said.

These sessions will take place from today.

All interested parties may

provide and submit written comments on the EPWP policy within 30 days, from the date of gazette. Thereafter the department will, after revising the policy based on the public input, consult Nedlac on the EPWP policy.

It is expected that the revised EPWP policy will be put before Cabinet for approval later this year and it is expected that the final EPWP policy will be gazetted early next year for implementation.

The EPWP is one of the government's strategies to alleviate poverty through the creation of work opportunities using la-

bour-intensive methods.

The programme is implemented in four sectors: infrastructure, social, environment and culture, and non-state.

All spheres of government and state-owned entities are expected to implement the programme.

The participants work on different projects such as community work programme, early childhood development programmes, home community-based care programmes, extra school support programmes, working on fire, working for water and roads maintenance projects.

The development and gazetting of the policy follow years of engagements by department and various stakeholders, said the department.

The purpose of the policy is to refocus the public employment programme agenda of government, with policy positions and programmes of action that are clearly defined, implementable and enforceable.

Since its inception on 1 April, 2004 to 31 March, 2022, more than 13 million work opportunities have been created in the EPWP across all spheres of government. - *SAnews.gov.za*