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# Roads project to benefit youth

## REP REPORTER

Transport MEC Xolile Nqatha will today launch a road maintenance youth brigade project in Stutterheim.

The aim of the launch is to showcase the department's potential impact on youth development in the province through the expanded public works programme (EPWP).

Nqatha said the EPWP was one of the government's medium to long-term strategies to reduce unemployment and alleviate poverty through the creation of work opportunities using labour-intensive methods

"The project is also expected to

contribute to the S'hamba Sonke Programme by enhancing routine road maintenance on provincial roads, and to supplement available in-house maintenance resources by providing technical support and semi-skilled personnel," he said.

He said the youth brigade beneficiaries would be trained and developed to attain accredited skills and professional job status.

"Some will be developed to help supervise the department's projects in respective locations."

Nqatha said his department had set a target to recruit 240 young people for the programme during this financial year.

He said the project was inspired by the words of wisdom of struggle icon OR Tambo, who said: "A country that does not value its youth and children does not deserve its future."

"This is to ensure that sacrifice and the price that was paid by the youth of 1976 is not in vain but rather to pave the way for the empowerment of young people, to become agents of change, creating more robust and interconnected communities through collaboration and awareness, and to create a solution-oriented mindset," said Nqatha.

The road maintenance youth project launch will be held at the Mlungisi Community Hall at 12 midday.