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FORESTRY

Loads of new jobs in the works over five years

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THE Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment has committed to creating 121 059 work opportunities over the next five years.

Minister Dion George made the announcement this week, describing the initiative as central to South Africa's green growth and just transition.

The programme, driven through the Expanded Public Works Programme, is expected to generate more than 77 000 full-time jobs.

Sixty percent of the opportunities will go to women, 55% to youth, and 2% to persons with disabilities.

George highlighted projects such as

youth environmental services, youth jobs in waste, and environmental monitors, which were providing training and career pathways in biodiversity conservation, aquaculture, waste management, and renewable energy.

He added that the National Employment Vulnerability Assessment ensures workers in traditional sectors such as coal, metals, petroleum, agriculture, and tourism were supported with resilient plans to participate in the new economy.

"This makes the country's just transition practical, not abstract," George said.

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