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## Macpherson halts EPWP funds over 'political gains'

**PUBLIC WORKS** and infrastructure minister Dean Macpherson has suspended expanded public works programme (EPWP) funds to the Matjhabeng municipality in the Free State pending investigations into alleged politically connected individuals receiving inflated salaries through the programme. City Press reported the municipality's EPWP pays inflated salaries to former councillors and sitting political office bearers, with others earning more than R31,000 a month – 10 times more than the average EPWP stipend. "The EPWP is an essential lifeline for many in communities. It would be unacceptable if any politician or official is found to have used the programme for personal benefit," the minister said. –TimesLIVE