

MEDIA STATEMENT

WAGE INCREASE SET FOR EPWP PARTICIPANTS

ISSUED: 14 November 2017

The Department of Public Works has announced an increase in minimum wage of Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) beneficiaries from R83.50 to R88.00 per day with effect from the 01st November 2017. The increase is in line with the current inflation rate and is aimed at positively contributing to the welfare of EPWP participants' households.

Making the announcement, Mr Stanley Henderson, Deputy Director General for EPWP, said the increase will play a significant role in uplifting the lives of those who participate in the programme. "Not only that but it will also continue to ensure that they bring much needed services through the four sectors of EPWP such as Infrastructure, Non State and Environment and Culture. This wage increase is in line with the current inflation rate, hopefully it will go a long way in contributing to the welfare of EPWP beneficiaries as well," said Mr Henderson.

As a result of the increase, all the implementing bodies of EPWP are urged to timeously adhere to the implementation of an approved prescribed minimum wage increase as from 01 November 2017.

The implementation of the adjusted minimum wage is applicable to all the participants of the EPWP across all sectors, however, many public bodies

implementing the EPWP projects pay wages that are much higher than the prescribed minimum wage of which it is a significant move towards radical economic change and achieving better socio economic status of the participants and communities they come from.

EPWP is a government initiative aimed at reducing poverty and unemployment through the provision of training and short to medium term labour intensive work opportunities to the poor and unemployed South Africans.

Beneficiaries work in different projects like Early Childhood Development Centres, Home Community Based Care, Extra School Support Programmes, Working on fire, Working for Water, Roads Maintenance Projects among others.

Through various skills and training that beneficiaries receive from EPWP, they stand a better chance to enter a formal job market or entrepreneurship.

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