



public works
& infrastructure

Department:
Public Works and Infrastructure
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MEDIA STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE, PATRICIA DE LILLE

DPWI calls for Public Comment on the EPWP Policy

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) has on Friday, 16 September 2022 gazetted the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Policy for public comment in the Government Gazette No: 46917.

The DPWI has developed the EPWP Policy which was approved by Cabinet on 31 August 2022 for public consultation.

We are calling on all stakeholders and communities to engage the department on this Policy during the countrywide EPWP Policy Public Consultation Sessions that the Department will be embarking on over the next few weeks.

These public consultation sessions will take place in all provinces starting from today, 19 September 2022. During these consultation sessions, the public – through their representative structures – will be afforded an opportunity to discuss and contribute to the EPWP Policy.

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 serve before Cabinet for approval later this year and we expect the final EPWP policy to be gazette early in 2023 for implementation.

Brief Background of the EPWP

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is one of the government's strategies to alleviate poverty through the creation of work opportunities using labour-intensive methods. The EPWP is implemented in four sectors namely: Infrastructure, Social, Environment & Culture, and Non-State. All spheres of government and State-Owned Entities are expected to implement the Programme.

The EPWP Participants (beneficiaries) work on different projects such as Community Work Programme (CWP), Early Childhood Development Programmes, Home Community Based Care Programmes, Extra School Support Programmes, Working on Fire, Working for Water, Roads Maintenance Projects, etc.

ABOUT THE EPWP POLICY

The development and gazetting of the EPWP Policy follow years of extensive engagements by DPWI and various stakeholders who are participating in the implementation of the EPWP. Extensive research was also undertaken by the Department in the development of this policy.

The purpose of the EPWP Policy is to refocus the Public Employment Programme (PEP) agenda of government, with policy positions and programmes of action that are clearly defined, implementable and enforceable.

Since its inception on 01 April 2004 to 31 March 2022, more than 13 million work opportunities have been created in the EPWP across all spheres of government.

Through the productive work of participants in the EPWP, projects deliver concrete outputs which improve the lives of the poor by providing a wide range of services.

As the EPWP Policy recognises the strengths of the programme, it aims to place it on a strengthened trajectory by addressing fundamental issues impacting its expansion by engaging on matters such as the EPWP wage, providing clarity on the positioning of the EPWP within the context of social protection and the labour market, re-defining the EPWP programmes, providing for a clearer funding model and strengthening the monitoring aspects related to the EPWP participant.

While the EPWP has had numerous successes, there has been a lack of uniformity in applying EPWP prescripts and compliance. Consequently, in consultation with

stakeholders, the DPWI has developed the EPWP Policy. The EPWP Policy aims to address challenges in the implementation of the EPWP. The EPWP is a flagship PEP in South Africa. PEPs are typically used as short to medium-term interventions to address seasonal and cyclical challenges. However, unemployment is a deep-rooted structural challenge in South Africa.

I therefore call on all stakeholders and members of the public to study the EPWP Policy and make inputs as these inputs are important in the work to revise the policy and ensure that it responds to the problems and that we find and implement solutions together.

A copy of the gazetted EPWP Policy can be found here:

http://www.epwp.gov.za/documents/policies/EPWP_Public_Consultation_Policy_2022.pdf

ENDS.

**Issued by the National Department of Public Works & Infrastructure (DPWI),
Communications Chief Directorate.**

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