



## **MEDIA STATEMENT: PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER HAILS SUCCESS IN CREATION OF EPWP WORK OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE 2010/11 FINANCIAL YEAR.**

**DURBAN** - Public Works Minister Geoff Doidge, MP, this morning hailed the successful creation of work opportunities in the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) first quarter results for the 2010/11 financial year.

Speaking at the opening of the inaugural EPWP Summit attended by municipalities from across the country, Minister Doidge announced that in the period 01 April 2010 to 30 June 2010, the EPWP created 193 001 work opportunities.

“This figure reflects an impressive 30 percent achievement against the set annual target of 642 000 net-work opportunities in the 2010/11 financial year. There are still three more quarters to go to achieve 642 000 work opportunities, therefore with the 193 001 work opportunities created in the first quarter; EPWP has already achieved 30 percent of the annual target for the 2010/11 financial year. This achievement proves yet again that the programme is making a significant impact in helping government’s concerted efforts of reducing unemployment and poverty by 2014”.

The sector breakdowns of work opportunities created under the EPWP in the first quarter of the 2010/11 financial year are as follows:

<b>Infrastructure Sector</b>	<b>120 780</b>
<b>Environment and Culture Sector</b>	<b>30 919</b>
<b>Social Sector</b>	<b>13 439</b>
<b>Non-State Sector</b>	<b>4 777</b>
<b>Community Works programme</b>	<b>23 086</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>193 001</b>

While noting the successes achieved in the first quarter of the current financial year, Minister Doidge impressed upon the municipal officials in attendance, the need for local government to maximise their efforts in the implementation of the programme.

“This summit should serve a persistent reminder that indeed we are committed to uprooting our communities from the depths of poverty to earn and income while doing productive work to aid in service delivery. The expansion of the EPWP in phase two is a clarion call to all of us to come up with programmes that are surely going to draw significant numbers of the unemployed into productive work. I am confident that our municipalities can surely play a critical role in drawing this significant numbers of the unemployed into productive work more so because of your strategic positioning at the coalface of service delivery”.

“We urge you to drag every sinew of your institutional make-up to implement EPWP as a viable and constructive way of socio-economic upliftment. Let us drag EPWP to the nerve centre of service delivery in our municipalities to ensure that this noble programme resonates in tandem with the developmental agenda of our government”.

According to EPWP Deputy Director General, Mr Stanley Henderson the performance of the programme in the first quarter indicates the continued successful performance by the Infrastructure Sector in the creation of the most work opportunities.

“As per previous figures, KwaZulu-Natal has the highest work opportunities created in total with the bulk of the figures under the Infrastructure Sector. KwaZulu-Natal is followed by the Eastern Cape and Gauteng after they all exceeded their first quarter employment creation targets. However, the figures reflect that more work still needs to be done in the Northern Cape, Limpopo, North West and Mpumalanga”.

Mr Henderson acknowledged that the EPWP will continue to engage with municipalities in the poor performing provinces to place EPWP at the nerve centre of job creation to fight poverty and unemployment.

“This massive improvement and excellence in the implementation of EPWP is a reliable source of confidence that the programme will easily exceed the set target of 642 000 work opportunities in the 2010/11 financial year and more-so help the programme to achieve its set five year target of 4,5 million work opportunities by 2014”.

Minister Doidge further urged executive mayors attending the summit to use the resources of the state to address social and infrastructure backlogs throughout South Africa.

Mayors also committed themselves to creating local work opportunities for unemployed members of communities in the areas where EPWP projects are implemented. Delegates also endorsed the target of creating 4.5 million work opportunities by 2014 and promised to ensure that the individual municipalities they lead, will exceed their targets and contribute to the national goal of halving unemployment by 2014.

Moving forward, the EPWP recognizes the vital fact that for a developing country that is attempting to grapple with its high levels of structural unemployment and associated poverty, this public works programme will continue to be relevant to ensure that work can be created for the most disadvantaged in society. This is viewed as a necessary intervention of the government to address poverty, contribute to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and mitigate the structural impediments to job creation.

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