



## **MEDIA STATEMENT: PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL THREE DAY MUNICIPAL EPWP SUMMIT**

**DURBAN** – Public Works Minister Geoff Doidge, MP, today celebrated as highly successful, the conclusion of the three day municipal Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Summit.

Addressing the closing session of the summit, the Minister hailed the three day deliberations and interaction as a positive step in ensuring that all spheres of government are on board in the implementation of the EPWP.

“The historic summit we are closing today further commits us to the respect we have for our constitution as we place a particular focus on Chapter three, which obligates us to work cooperatively with each other. The curtains that are drawing to close on this summit, leaves us with a beam of hope for improved service delivery in our communities, and a commitment to the ethos that government delivers to us, with us and for us”.

“With this summit, we exemplified our respect and appreciation for the critical role that has, can and must be played by our local sphere of government in implementing this cutting edge socio-economic programme. We further, acknowledge local government for their enthusiastic participation in the deliberations during this summit”

According to the Minister, all spheres of government, particularly municipalities, must claim full ownership of the EPWP and emphasised that this ownership status can only be enhanced through the successful implementation of the programme.

“Through what I have observed and participated in since Wednesday, I can personally attest to being convinced that indeed we understand and believe in the individual and collective role we play in living true to the motto we shared at the beginning of this summit that government delivers to us, with us and for us”

Summit resolutions passed contain the following points:

- i. Municipalities commit to sign protocols on EPWP by end of November 2010.
- ii. Municipalities will develop and endorse policy on EPWP.

- iii. Municipalities will ensure that their Infrastructure Development Plans include EPWP projects.
- iv. Municipalities will optimize their budgets to deliver on the EPWP across all sectors
- v. Municipalities will optimize the use of labour-intensive methods in their projects in order to promote the creation of work opportunities.
- vi. Municipalities resolve to create EPWP forums at a District level to monitor, analyze and share best practice implementation of the EPWP.
- vii. NDPW will strengthen collaboration with the Department of Corporative Governance and Traditional Affairs, South African Local Government Association, Development Bank of South Africa and other stakeholders to implement EPWP
- viii. Municipalities will receive technical support across all EPWP sectors to optimize the implementation of EPWP. Technical support will be provided in the areas of monitoring and evaluation, training, enterprise development, design and implementation of all municipal projects.
- ix. Municipalities will report on the EPWP projects in order to access the EPWP wage incentive.
- x. Municipalities commit to assist in mobilising non-profit organisations to participate in the non-state sector and community works programmes.
- xi. NDPW will continue to develop and make available implementation manuals on EPWP.

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