

**Deputy Minister of Public Works  
N Kganyago  
31 August 2004**

[Back](#)

**Launch of Gauteng EPWP  
Soweto**

The Deputy President, Mr Jacob Zuma  
The Premier of Gauteng, Mr Mbazima Shilowa  
The MEC for Public Transport, Roads and Works, Mr Ignatius Jacobs  
Other MEC's present today  
The Members of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature  
The Executive Mayor of Johannesburg, Mr Amos Masondo  
Other Mayors present today  
Heads of Department  
Distinguished Guests  
Ladies and Gentlemen

We gather here to day to fulfil the directive that the President issued on the occasion of his State of the Nation Address on 21 May 2004. Acknowledging the mandate that was overwhelmingly re issued by the people of South Africa following the 14 April General Elections and the ensuing results, the President made a call to all the Provinces to launch their Expanded Public Works Programme frameworks and implement EPWP related projects and sub programmes that would eradicate poverty through job creation, skills development and improvement of social and other services. The above are the fundamental objectives of the Programme and as such shall be embraced, enhanced and achieved in order to contribute to the overall realisation of the socio-economic goals of this government.

The Expanded Public Works Programme represents a product of ten years of organic thinking, fine tuning, countless reviews and realignment of various government efforts to eradicate poverty, improve the standard of life, reverse the effects of apartheid social planning and overturn apartheid economic policies. It is by no means the be- all and end- all of government endeavours. Rather we in government like to see it as one of many initiatives to alleviate the effects of poverty. The effects of poverty are many and varied. As South Africans we experience poverty differently and to varying degrees. For example, a mere trip to the nearest available government services for many of our people can mean a long walk, exposure to natural and anti social elements, poor service by unethical public servants, frustrating bureaucratic processes and often outright lack of empathy for the frail and vulnerable.

Government's contract with the people of South Africa is to demonstrate responsive governance and reveal the side of government that cares, protects and serves. Our philosophy as government is to facilitate equal access for all to opportunities designed to benefit every citizen. Access to job opportunities is central to participative nation building because jobs lessen dependency on welfare of the state and ensure that we become productive participants in our own development and human fulfilment.

It is against this background that I like to introduce and call upon the Deputy President of South Africa, Mr Jacob Zuma to address the audience. Msholozii!!

[top](#)