

**Minister of Public Works**  
**Mr J Radebe**  
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## **Input to the Special Employment Programmes Commission at the Presidential Job Summit**

The Community Based Public Works Programme (CBPWP) is one of the programmes of government that aim at eradicating poverty, by targeting the poorest communities especially in the rural areas, where infrastructure is lacking.

Its PRINCIPLES include:

- Strong community participation;
- Labour intensive methods of construction;
- Skills transfer through education and training
- Sustainability
- Targeting women, women-headed households, and youth.

Its OBJECTIVES are well known, but can be summarised as providing linkages with the Local Economic Development initiatives driven by district councils, based on economically viable areas to create projects with high economic potential to ensure continued income-generation opportunities. It focuses on extending access by communities to economic opportunities in conjunction with all other key stakeholders.

ASSESSMENTS since the inception of the initial CBPWP, in particular by the ILO and CASE, have found that the principles and objectives of the CBPWP are viable and successful. In short:

- The programme has reached the poorest of the poor in all areas where it has been implemented;
- The programme has achieved a high degree of success in reaching its targetted constituencies, particularly women in rural areas;
- The programme has resulted in infrastructural assets of high quality in most instances;
- The programme has already achieved marked success in encouraging auxiliary economic activities to spring up around a large number of projects;
- The programme has resulted in the development of significant management and organising skills of members of communities who have participated in it; and
- The programme has been well-received by the vast majority of workers employed in the programme and by the communities which have been targetted.

Finally, the ILO/CASE assessment concluded that the CBPWP was one of the best public works programmes that have been implemented in more than 40 developing countries in Africa , Asia and the Pacific Rim.

Shortcomings and problems with the initial programme were identified around monitoring and evaluation, the possibility of improved targetting procedures, and the need to realign the programme around the concept of clustering. Corrective measures have been implemented through the pilot projects under last years' R85m Rural Anti-Poverty Programme. The success of these pilots has led me to instruct my department to continue the programme for the allocation granted by government in terms of the R274m given my department.

Thus, the DPW budget allocation of R274,0 million for EMPLOYMENT CREATION for the 1998/99 financial year, Envisages:

- the creation of 60,000 temporary jobs within a (9) nine month to (1) one year period, through labour-intensive based methods. The programme seeks to empower communities through training and skills transfer during this period. This will ensure that people gain skills that will help them identify further income generation opportunities on completion of the programme.
- the creation of approximately 6,000 sustainable jobs, which will be developed out of opportunities identified by the members of communities, co-operatives, private sector /civil society ventures and integrated development initiatives with other government departments and parastatals.
- the empowerment of 600-700 communities in development management, which translates to approximately 4,800-5,600 people. This programme ensures the improvement of the living standards

as a result of access to permanent infrastructure, temporary and permanent employment opportunities.

## 6. Cluster concept

Projects are identified in a manner that intensifies the impact of individual projects within the general economic environment of the local community. Integrated spatial planning and development are the key concepts that determine the nature, location and specific choice of individual projects.

Key areas of this approach are as follows:-

- They cover a wide segment of the community and therefore alleviates poverty from a broader perspective compared to single projects to individual communities
- Enhances growth opportunities for the targeted economic nodes, by ensuring high potential for a wide range of potential opportunities
- Provides easier access to infrastructure for other initiatives, e.g. Small, Micro Medium Enterprises (SMMEs)
- Enhances linkages with other structures of government, private sector and the civil society
- Ensures co-ordination

EXPECTED OUTCOMES of the programme will be the creation of approximately 600- 700 projects of average value of between R750,000-R1.5 m within identified poverty pockets in the Northern Province, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. These include:

- Directly productive assets such as markets, irrigation schemes, taxi-ranks, community gardens, irrigation schemes, manufacturing centres, food-lots, poultry centres, etc
- Improvement of accessibility to markets both to and from communities through rural access roads, low-level bridges, market stalls, etc.
- Labour saving and quality of life improvements for women through day care centres, crèches, water supply, fuel lots etc
- Environmental improvement through erosion control, waste management, sanitation etc
- Social cohesion through sports-fields, multi-purpose centres, nurseries etc.

SPECIFIC PROJECTS are in the process of being identified. The process involves identifying development nodes through development planning exercise and deciding on the relevant cluster of projects to be created in each cluster. Cognisance will also be taken of the impact of the new Census figures as well.

We have tentatively identified the following areas in the three provinces earmarked for this funding:

Wild Coast (EC)  
 East Region (EC)  
 Ilembe (KZN)  
 Uthungulu (KZN)  
 North (NP)  
 Zululand (KZN)  
 Amatola (EC)  
 Ugu (KZN)  
 Thukela (KZN)  
 Mzinyathi (KZN)  
 Bushveld (NP)  
 Drakensberg (EC)  
 Stormberg (EC)  
 Indlovu (KZN)  
 West Region (EC)

As indicated earlier the programme has a rural bias and therefore the clusters will be within the poverty pockets under each District/Regional Council. The project identification will take place in November and the implementation will start in January.

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