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## EPWP BI- WEEKLY BULLETIN

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### The recruitment of community members into the EPWP must be fair and transparent, says Minister Nxesi

Article Michael Mokoena

The recruitment of community members into the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) must be fair, transparent, equitable and accountable, the Minister of Public Works Mr TW Nxesi said. Launching the EPWP Recruitment Guidelines in Port Shepstone in KwaZulu-Natal on 28 June 2018, Minister Nxesi pointed out that the guidelines will go a long way in addressing fraud and corruption in the recruitment of community members into the EPWP.

“With these recruitment guidelines, we aim to streamline and standardize the recruitment process into the EPWP. These EPWP Recruitment Guidelines provide a clear guide in the process that must be followed in the recruitment of our people into the Programme – the guidelines stipulates that there must be fairness, transparency, equity and accountability in the process followed to recruit community members into the EPWP,” Minister Nxesi explained.

In recent years, allegations have streamed in from various parts of the country of serious challenges in the recruitment of community members into the EPWP, with some allegations of political interference, alleged selling of EPWP posts, hiring of ghost employees, payment of participants for the work not done and other such allegations.

Minister Nxesi appealed to community members to expose all those who are interfering in the recruitment process of community members into the Programme.

“The EPWP is aimed at reducing poverty through the creation of work and training opportunities for the poor and the unemployed. It cannot be correct that we have children and friends of politicians in the Programme. It cannot be

acceptable that people are recruited into the Programme based on their political or factional affiliation.”

“It must be noted that poverty and hunger knows no politics, so we cannot have a government Programme that is aimed at tackling poverty only benefiting people based on their political affiliation. I therefore appeal to all our people to report any unethical and fraudulent recruitment of people into the EPWP to us (Department of Public Works),” Minister Nxesi added.

Minister Nxesi was accompanied by Deputy Minister of Public Works, Mr Jeremy Cronin as well as senior provincial and national government leaders. Deputy Minister Cronin said challenges in the recruitment of participants into the Programme posed a reputational danger for the EPWP.

“The EPWP is a wonderful Programme that has a positive international reputation. Many countries throughout the world hold the EPWP in high regards. Now if this wonderful Programme is embroiled in corrupt recruitment practices, its international reputation will be tainted.

We therefore appeal to all implementing bodies to apply these recruitment guidelines when recruiting people into the Programme. We also appeal to our people to play a monitoring role in ensuring the all implementing bodies, including municipalities recruit people fairly, transparently and indeed in an equitable manner,” Deputy Minister Cronin added.

The EPWP Recruitment Guidelines were developed by the Department of Public Works (DPW) after consultation with various stakeholders and were endorsed by the Department of Labour in December 2017.

#### Upcoming events: The EPWP Branch to participate in the government's 2018 Nelson Mandela Day commemoration

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Branch in the National Department of Public Works will this month (July) commemorate the 2018 Nelson Mandela Day with school children in KwaMhlanga in Mpumalanga.

The event is expected to be led by Deputy Director General of the EPWP, Mr Stanley Henderson and will be held under the theme: “Nelson Mandela Centenary 2018, be the Legacy.”

Other sectors of the EPWP Branch will also host the Nelson Mandela Day in other parts of the country. Information on the dates and venues to host these events will be communicated in due course.

### The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Provincial Roads Directorate held its two-day Phase 4 Plenary Meeting

Article Maanea Maselesele

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Provincial Roads directorate recently held its two-day Phase 4 plenary meeting at Fortis Hotel in Pretoria. The meeting was aimed at the development of the directorate's Phase 4 business plan as well as an analysis of its Phase 3 performance. The EPWP Phase 4 is expected to commence in April 2019.

The directorate's provincial coordinators also reviewed the 2018/19 performance in implementation of provincial roads projects as well as come up with methodologies of how to achieve the set targets. The attendees at the meeting also shared best practices in terms of roads programmes and the use of labour intensive methods to create work opportunities and to build community assets.

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