



EPWP Bi-Weekly Bulletin

THE EPWP HAS A HUGE ROLE TO PLAY IN DRIVING UP EMPLOYMENT POST COVID-19

Article by Michael Mokoena

The COVID-19 health pandemic will intensify the demand for the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) work in the country, said the Commissioner in the National Planning Commission, Dr Miriam Altman.

Speaking at the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure's EPWP Webinar on the repositioning of Public Employment Programmes (PEPs) in the era of COVID-19 and Economic Downturn which was held recently, Dr Altman said there were many work opportunities that EPWP will generate during and post COVID-19.

She said both Social and Non-State sectors were likely to drive up EPWP work opportunities especially Programmes such as early childhood development and social entrepreneurship.

Dr Altman said that during COVID-19 government may also drive up EPWP employment by buying COVID-19 goods, such as face masks from community-based organisations that provide work opportunities to the unemployed.

She pointed out however that for the EPWP to successfully scale up employment opportunities during and post COVID-19, the Programme would have to address critical barriers to expansion.

She added that scaling up EPWP work opportunities will require commitment to resolving institutional challenges and outstanding debates with competing interests.

EPWP TO PLAY VITAL ROLE IN GOVERNMENT'S COMPREHENSIVE COVID-19 RESEARCH AND MITIGATION STRATEGY, SAYS ILO

Article by Michael Mokoena

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) plays a vital role in the government's comprehensive COVID-19 response and mitigation strategy.

This is according to the International Labour Organization's Michael Samson, who was one of the key guest speakers at the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure's EPWP Webinar on the repositioning of Public Employment Programmes (PEPs) in the era of COVID-19 and Economic Downturn, which was held recently.

In his presentation, Samson argued that in response to the COVID-19 pandemic effects on social protection, the EPWP needs to strengthen its role in supporting government's long-

term strategic goals by strengthening its health care capacity, as well as assisting those who have lost their jobs as a result of the health pandemic.

He said assets and services EPWP creates can reduce medium and long term costs of the pandemic and better enable South Africa to tackle both this pandemic and future crises.

Samson said the EPWP would have to adapt some of the existing projects to respond to the COVID-19 risks and expand some of the EPWP projects to deliver more opportunities.

He added that the COVID-19 pandemic creates opportunities and demands for transformational approaches such as digital public works.

EPWP TO UTILIZE TECHNOLOGY TO PROVIDE THE SOCIAL SERVICES REQUIRED BY CITIZENS DURING AND POST COVID-19, SAYS INDIA'S CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND ACTIVITIES

Article by Michael Mokoena

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) must utilize technology to assist government to deliver social protection services to communities affected mostly by COVID-19, says Lawrence Siddhartha Benninger of the Centre for Development Studies and Activities (CDSA) in India.

In his address to the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure's EPWP Webinar on the repositioning of Public Employment Programmes (PEPs) in the era of COVID-19 and Economic Downturn which was held recently, Benninger said infusing technology into the EPWP would assist government to provide speedy assistance to community members affected by COVID-19.

He said that EPWP participants could use technology to collect data relating to social protection needs and COVID-19 health threats and relay it to the government so that it (government) can immediately provide the required assistance.

Benninger added that government would also have to embark on upskilling participants to ensure that they are able to effectively utilize technology to collect the required COVID-19 related data.

The EPWP Webinar was hosted by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI), in partnership with the International Labour Organisation (ILO).



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