



public works
& infrastructure

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EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME

EPWP NEWS

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Government has created close to 1 million EPWP work opportunities during the 2019/20 financial year

Article by Michael Mokoena
Pictures by Ofentse Letswalo



With South Africa – and the whole world – facing rising unemployment levels as a result of the ongoing Covid19 health pandemic, government continue to work with all stakeholders to create economic opportunities for the country's poor and unemployed. Through the Expanded Public Works Programme

(EPWP), government has in the 2019/20 financial year created a total of 994 699 EPWP work opportunities for the poor and unemployed South Africans. These numbers have been reported from all 13 407 EPWP projects countrywide.

This achievement is against the government’s set target of creating 981 497 work opportunities for the said year. “As the country faces massive job losses and deepening poverty levels as a result of Covid19, the government will continue to work with all stakeholders to provide EPWP work and training opportunities to as many people as possible,” the Acting Deputy Director-General of the EPWP Mr. Devan Pillay said.

The reported number of work opportunities provide a clear picture that the EPWP is meeting its target of drawing more women into the Programme as 68 percent of these opportunities were occupied by women. However, youth participation in the EPWP remain lower than 42 percent.

“We will continue to work harder with all stakeholders in the country to try and increase the number of young people who participate in the EPWP,” Mr Pillay said.

All four sectors of the EPWP – Infrastructure, Environment & Culture, Social and Non-State – contributed to these opportunities, with the biggest contributor being the Non-State with 330 499 work opportunities, followed by Infrastructure 288 288 work opportunities. The EPWP Social and Environment & Culture sectors created 175 812 and 200 100 respectively.

Mr. Pillay explained that in the current financial year (2020/21) the EPWP is aiming to create over 900 000 EPWP work opportunities for the poor and unemployed South Africans. “As we speak, we have recruited thousands of EPWP participants to assist in national government’s response to fighting the Covid 19 pandemic. These

participants will assist the Department of Health (DoH) to provide health education and awareness about the pandemic as well as assisting with screening of people in our communities.”

EPWP 2019/20 performance per Province

KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape continue to lead in the creation of EPWP work opportunities – the two provinces created 231 241 and 184 089 respectively. The performance by other provinces is as follows:

Free State – 65 052

Gauteng – 99 212

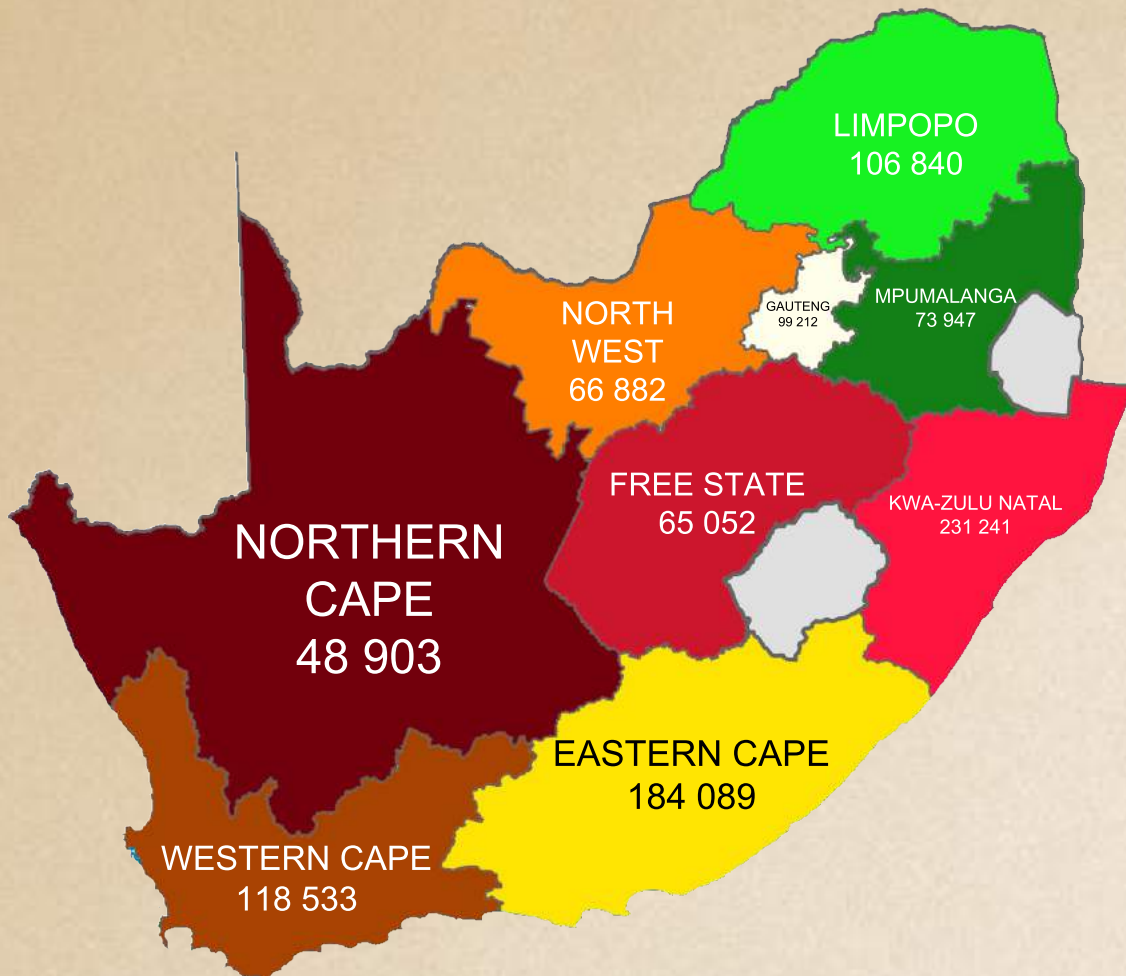
Limpopo – 106 840

Mpumalanga – 73 947

North West – 66 882

Northern Cape – 48 903

Western Cape – 118 533



Government deploy 25 000 EPWP participants to assist with control measures to contain the spread of Covid-19

Article by Michael Mokoena
Picture by Mzimkulu Gusha



In an effort to contribute to the control measures undertaken by the national government to contain the spread of Corona virus (Covid-19) pandemic within different communities in the country, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) has deployed 25 000 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants to 44 districts and 8 metropolitan municipalities across the country for the period of three months.

The deployment of participants is as a result of the partnerships between Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, Department of Health, Independent Development Trust and various Non Profit Organisations (NPOs) implementing the EPWP.

Recently, Minister of public works and infrastructure, Ms Patrica de Lille said “The DPWI is working hard to ensure that we do everything we can to assist the Covid-19 National Command Council and especially the Department of Health in the overall efforts to respond

to the Covid-19 pandemic. We are ready to assist in any way we can to ensure that we curb the spread of the virus and keep citizens healthy and safe during this time”

The participants’ duties during their deployment period entail:

- Assisting with public health education and awareness programme linked to the Department of Health’s Hygiene Strategy.
- Assisting with the referral of possible Covid-19 infected members of the public to the nearest testing sites where they will be tested by medical professionals from DoH
- Providing support to quarantine sites in the form of provision of cooking service and surface cleaning of public places.

National School Nutrition Programme alleviate hunger in schools

Article by Masego Maselwanyane additional reporting by Kgomotso Mathuloe

Pictures by Masego Maselwanyane



The National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) aims to enhance educational experience of needy primary school learners through alleviating hunger by providing healthy meals at schools thereby enhancing their learning capacity. In addition to that, the programme assist in improving concentration and contributing to general healthy development of children. While learners are being provided with nutritious meals, they are also taught to establish and maintain good eating and healthy lifestyle.

Key objectives of the National School Nutrition Programmes (NSNP) are:

- To enhance learning capacity through school feeding
- To promote and support the implementation of food production initiatives in schools
- To strengthen nutritional education for school communities

The Programme employs community members as food handlers to cook and provide food to children from needy families. In KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), EPWP Social Sector has allocated Incentive Grant to the Department of Education to ensure that Chief Food Handlers and data capturers are recruited to provide this essential services to various schools in the province. This initiative did not only help in the alleviation of hunger in schools but has contributed to the creation of work opportunities and improved quality of lives.

The Chief Food Handlers are responsible for providing administration services of the programme in schools which includes among others:

- Supervision of Food Handlers
- Placing and receiving orders from the appointed service providers
- Overseeing and ensuring that all learners receive meals within specified times
- Ensuring cleanliness in the kitchen at all times
- Ensure that Food Handlers sign attendance register daily and feeding registers are up to date and well kept
- Ensure the service providers deliver the correct products

The Department of Education in KZN together with EPWP Social Sector have recently embarked on an evaluation exercise at various schools in UThukela and Amajuba Districts to determine the impact made by the Chief Food Handlers in each school. The two districts were chosen because they have a large number of quintile 1-3 schools which are a target for NSNP.

Most principals in all the schools visited reported a positive difference made by the Chief Food Handlers in the programme. They indicated the reduced burden of administration service from the teachers which is performed by Chief Food Handlers who are young, eager to learn and passionate about their work. The schools reported that there has been a huge improvement in the implementation of the programme since the appointment of Chief Food Handlers.

Some of the improvements reported included management of service providers, i.e. ensuring that service providers deliver what has been ordered and that the stipulated menu is adhered to. Principals expressed gratitude to the provincial Department of Education and the EPWP Social Sector for the appointment of Chief Food Handlers. It was evident from these assessment visits that the addition of the Chief Food Handlers into the programme had yielded positive results and added value to the NSNP.

Addressing the media on Tuesday, 19 May 2020, to update on preparations for the re-opening of schools, the Minister of Basic Education, Ms Angie Motshekga said that the School Nutrition Programme will be opened for all learners when Grade 12 and 7 return to schools in June 2020. She said that all Food handlers will be supplied with the required personal protective equipment including gloves, aprons and cloth masks.

“The school nutrition budget will be utilised according to the revised school calendar and where feasible, school meals will also be extended to catch-up programmes for the Grade 12s” the Minister said.

Community Works Programme contributes to the development of communities

Article by Kgomotso Mathuloe

Picture by Karen Mthombeni



Community Work Programme (CWP) is a government initiative aimed at providing an employment safety net to unemployed people by providing them with regular and predictable work opportunities and enabling them to earn a monthly wage.

The Participants work two days a week focusing on work needed by communities. CWP has become an instrument of community development by improving the quality of lives within poor communities. The Programme is coordinated by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (GOGTA). This Programme is part of the Non-State sector.

To enhance skills of the Participants, Department of Public Works and Infrastructure has trained 25 Participants in Environmental Practice in Ratanda, Gauteng. The course has assisted Participants to set up and manage the community gardens. This training was facilitated by DPWI's Pretoria Regional Office.

One of the Project Participants, Mr Nhlanelo Nhlapo said that they have learnt a lot from the training Programme. The curriculum covered topics such as Pest control, crop production, soil preparation and irrigation. He said that the knowledge that they acquired will be shared with community, especially youth to assist them to start vegetable gardens.

KwaZulu-Natal host the 4th EPWP Kamoso Awards

Article by Maanea Maselesele

Pictures by Maanea Maselesele



The MEC for Department of Human Settlement and Public Works in KwaZulu-Natal, Ms Peggy Nkonyeni hosted the 4th Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Kamoso Awards in Durban on 10 March 2020. The awards recognised and rewarded excellence and innovation in the implementation of EPWP across four sectors namely: Infrastructure, Social, Non-State and Environment and Culture in the Province.

The stakeholders were competing in the twenty-one (21) Kamoso Awards Categories in all EPWP sectors. Both King Cetshwayo District Municipality and the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health walked away with two awards each while the province's Rural Development Department won the MEC's Recognition Award for Best Compliant Public Body on Division of Revenue Act (DORA).

Below is the list of Kamoso Awards winners in the province:

Sector	Category Name	Winning public bodies
Infrastructure	Best Construction Project	KZN - Health
	Best Maintenance Programme	Mandeni Local Municipality
	Best Maintenance Project	KZN - Health
	Best District Municipality	Uthukela District Municipality
	Best Local Municipality	Msinga Local Municipality
	Best Public Body Supporting Contractor Development	KZN - Transport

Sector	Category Name	Winning public bodies
Social	Best Programme	KZN - Social Development
	Best Project	Ugu District Municipality
	Best District Municipality	Umkhanyakude District Municipality
	Best Local Municipality	AbaQulusi Local Municipality
	Best Implementing Department	KZN - Social Development
Environment and Culture	Best District Municipality	King Cetshwayo District Municipality
	Best Local Municipality	Mtubatuba Local Municipality
	Best Programme	KZN - Agriculture and Rural Development
	Best Project	Msinga Local Municipality
	Best Implementing Department	KZN - Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs
Non-State	Best Project: Non-Profit Organisation Programme	South African Food Security And Development Agency
	Best Project: Community Works Programme	Jozini Local Municipality
Innovative	Best Innovative Project	King Cetshwayo District Municipality
	Best Innovative Programme	Amajuba District Municipality
MEC Recognition Awards	Best Compliant public body to Division of Revenue Act (DORA)	KZN Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) host a Job Preparedness Workshop

Article by Ofentse Letswalo
Pictures by Ofentse Letswalo



Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) hosted a two-day Job Readiness Workshop in Mokopane Cost Centre, Limpopo.

The purpose of the workshop was to equip the youth with knowledge and skills required to prepare them for the workplace. The objectives of the workshop was to enable the participants to develop a positive attitude towards learning and workplace, pay attention to details when seeking employment, improve their employability opportunities and assist them to develop interview skills.

The workshop further provided young people with tips on how to keep and excel at a new job; basic employability skills which include effective communication and problem solving.

The second day of the workshop focused on information sharing, guidance on how to register and start a small business, provide ways on how to get funding and the importance of artisanship in our country.

Amongst the stakeholders who made presentations at the workshop were officials from Limpopo Provincial Public Works and stakeholders from National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (Merseta), Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA), and Polokwane Local Municipality representatives.

Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Learning Programme

Article by Ofentse Letswalo
Pictures by Ofentse Letswalo



Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) recently hosted a 5-day Learning Programme in Worcester in the Western Cape. This learning programme was hosted under the theme: "Discover EPWP" and it was aimed at assisting EPWP implementers, policy makers and politicians in the province to better understand and implement the EPWP. The content of the learning programme included the mandate of the EPWP, contextualising the Programme, historic background, SA key job creation policies as well as different sectors and sub-programmes of the EPWP.

At the end of the 5-day learning programme, officials and stakeholders who attended were awarded with certificates of attendance.

