



the dpw

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NYS and EPWP projects create jobs...

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North West has to date created more than 60 500 job opportunities since the launch of Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) in 2004.

In the past financial year (2007-2008) alone, the provincial government implemented 1,097 EPWP projects and created 20 708 job opportunities.

In total 8 106 were women; 12 602 were men; 9 467 youth; and 49 persons with disabilities.

The department's own EPWP projects created 513 job opportunities in 20 projects.

Two hundred and fifty one (251) of these job opportunities went to women, two hundred and sixty two (262) to men while only one (1) to a person with disability.

Public Works MEC Jerry Thibedi expressed satisfaction that the department had fulfilled its mandate on the implementation of the EPWP.

“It remains a very comprehensive anti-poverty strategy that seeks to address section of our population most affected by the poverty,” said Thibedi.

He said there was however a need to focus more on attracting people with disability within the programme.

Of all these men and women beneficiaries of EPWP, four hundred and sixty nine (469) were under the age of 35.

“We will continue to provide training to 36 Municipal Technical Officials on Labour Intensive Construction Methods (LIC) as we are of the view that this is also a very critical sphere of government that requires support,” Thibedi said.

Meanwhile, scaling up the scope and impact of EPWP by integrating into it the National Youth Service (NYS) in building maintenance has also been achieved by the department.

More than 550 beneficiaries- who have studied up to Grade 10 and above- have been enlisted in 12 projects across the province for the programme.

NYS remains one of the many key interventions to eradicate poverty and address the skills challenges among young people.

The department launched the “NYS In Building Maintenance” on April 18, at Huhudi Stadium in Vryburg attended also by Public Works Minister Thoko Didiza and North West Premier Edna Molewa.

These beneficiaries (60% women and 40%men) drawn from four regions, have studied up to Grade 10 and above.

NYS beneficiaries have received National Qualification Frame Works (NQF) accredited training in a variety of trades which include: painting; carpentry; tiling and welding. An amount of R3.9 million has been set aside for a range of EPWP projects in our four regions

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