



public works & roads

Department:
Public Works and Roads
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

North West Province showcases new cohort of EPWP participants during the 20 years celebration and Phase V launch...

Date: Thursday, May 02, 2024

His Excellency, President Ramaphosa has set a target of 5 million job opportunities by 2029 through Phase V of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). Unveiled at Buffalo City Stadium in the Eastern Cape, a rebranded EPWP was launched under the theme "Celebrating 20 Years of EPWP - Changing Lives, Building Better Communities". Just a week after the launch, the North West Department of Public Works and Roads under the stewardship of MEC Gaoage Oageng Molapisi showcased over 8000 participants of EPWP during the launch held at Brits Sports Grounds in Madibeng Local Municipality.

The launch was hosted by Acting Premier, Maloyi alongside Deputy Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Bernice Swarts. EPWP remains government's most single massive employment initiative. It is a nationwide initiative that was launched with the aim of creating job opportunities and providing income support to unemployed community members and those from poor households. Some of the sectors through which government departments and public bodies create work opportunities for the programme include road construction and maintenance; environmental greening and clean-up as well as removal of alien vegetation.

Speaking at the occasion observed as part of the 20 years celebration since inception of EPWP in 2004. MEC Molapisi said his department has committed to contribute over 15 000 job opportunities for the year under review. "The number of 8 326 new recruits that is here at this launch today is an indication of our commitment to achieve the target and change the lives of our youth and empower our communities through skills development," he said.

Deputy Minister Swarts indicated that during the new phase, the core focus of EPWP should gravitate towards crafting pathways of continuous growth, learning and empowerment. She said 16 of the 50 Technological Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges who have committed to partner with EPWP for the next three years through signed Service Level Agreements. She added that these institutions will provide accredited training in skills programmes and learnerships to approximately 30 000 participants country wide.

Three former participants of the programme also gave testimonies on how it benefitted them. These included Sibusiso Digwamaje, employed by Public Works and Roads as a Tradesman Aid at Job Shimankana Tabane Provincial Hospital in Rustenburg worker, Montgomery Selemela, a business owner who is part of the department's contractor development programme and Daphne Morgan, employed by Madibeng Local Municipality as a general worker.

Acting Premier Maloyi said the programme has had a huge impact on poverty alleviation and has contributed to skills development becoming a springboard for new sustainable opportunities while also providing work experience and promoting social and economic inclusion.



“We are using the programme to provide job opportunities in our communities while ensuring that we deliver infrastructure. Women, youth, and people with disabilities continues to be at the receiving end of high unemployment rates. I am hopeful that through this programme these groupings will gain additional skills and enjoy longer employment prospects,” said Maloyi.

The Acting Premier applauded the envisaged absorption of 15 000 beneficiaries into this programme in the province, saying it will go a long way in fighting the scourge of unemployment in communities, particularly those in townships and rural areas.

Ends

Issued by the Department of Public Works and Roads

For Enquiries contact: Lerato Gambu

Acting Director: Communications

Department of Public Works and Roads -North West Provincial Government

Cell: 076 322 1165

E-mail: lgambu@nwpg.gov.za

