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Department of Public Works
North West Provincial Government
Republic of South Africa

Workshop to improve EPWP data capturing.

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Data collecting and reporting on the impact of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) in the North West is expected to improve following a two-day workshop which ended on Tuesday November 6, 2007 in Mafikeng.

Organised by the provincial Public Works department, the workshop sought to train report consolidators on how to validate and clean data to ensure that the information submitted to the national department is accurate.

More than thirty (30) officials representing the various provincial government departments, municipalities and other public bodies from all over the province attended the workshop.

Among the things captured in such reports, are the number of job opportunities created and the number of people who underwent training as part of the programme.

The reports also record whether implementing public bodies are meeting requirements in terms of the prescribed beneficiary quotas of women, youth and people living with disabilities.

The information collated in such reports is important as it helps paint a clear picture of how the programme is doing in terms of meeting its objectives.

In terms of the set targets, EPWP as one of the programmes identified to help address unemployment and poverty has to create a million work opportunities for the unskilled, marginalized and unemployed people in the country over a five-year period (2004-2009).

These should target at least 40% women, 30% youth and 2% disabled.

In the province, the programme has to create over 30 000 job opportunities over the next three years.

Director for EPWP in the North West and Gauteng Swazi Maja said if data had not been captured correctly in reports, such reports were often rejected by the national department as they would not be a true reflection of the situation.

“How you validate and clean data is something new to some of these report consolidators. We are therefore going to assist them in making sure that the reports we submit to the national department are clean and valid,” she said.

A member of the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit from the national department Gadija Vahed said: “Although certain departments and municipalities had been reporting, there was still a need to get all implementers to present corroborated submissions.”

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