



Welcome Address by His Worship, the Mayor, Cllr James Nxumalo on the Occasion of the Deputy President's visit to EPWP projects

21 July 2016 - 11h30

Inanda

- Programme Director,
- Honourable Deputy President and Chairperson of the Public Employment Programmes Inter-Ministerial Committee, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa,
- Honourable Minister of Public Works, Mr Thulas Nxesi,
- Members of the Public Employment Programmes Inter-Ministerial Committee,
- Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Willies Mchunu,
- MEC for Public Works and Human Settlements in KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Ravi Pillay,
- Members of the eThekweni Executive Committee,
- Fellow Councillors,
- Delegation for the Presidency,
- Representatives from the different spheres of government,
- Traditional leadership,
- Stakeholders and partners,
- Government and Municipal officials,
- Distinguished guests and dignitaries,
- Members of the media,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- All protocol observed,

On behalf of eThekweni, it is with great pleasure that I welcome members of the Public Employment Programmes Inter-Ministerial Committee led by Deputy President the Honourable Cyril Ramaphosa.

Ladies and gentlemen, during the 2014 State of the Nation Address, His Excellency President Jacob Zuma announced that South Africa would create six million work opportunities through the Expanded Public Works Programme by 2019.

Honourable Deputy President, it is a pleasure to inform you that we have taken our President's job creation agenda forward through various EPWP projects. During the 2014/15 financial year, eThekweni created approximately 29 thousand job opportunities. The 2015/16 financial year saw an increase in the number of job opportunities with approximately 40 thousand created during that period.

Ladies and gentlemen, our Municipality has made great strides in job creation and radical transformation. To date, the Municipality has reported the highest number of work opportunities with the figure totalling 134 thousand which is higher than other municipalities in the country. For the next three years, eThekweni Municipality is targeting, among others, to create 90 thousand EPWP job opportunities.

One of the projects, the Zibambele Road Maintenance programme was launched in 1998 by KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government to alleviate poverty and create work opportunities.

The programme continues to make a significant impact in ensuring that communities benefit financially from the maintenance of provincial roads.

Programme Director, eThekweni is serious about tackling the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality through poverty alleviation programmes.

Our Government wants to ensure that economic emancipation is being driven aggressively to lift people out of the poverty cycle. Through EPWP, we are breaking the cycle of poverty while empowering people with skills to secure employment in the future.

Honourable Deputy Minister and members of the Inter-Ministerial Committee, we are honoured to host you during your visit to assess our EPWP projects. We also thank you for your continued support in ensuring the sustainability and growth of our poverty alleviation programmes.

In welcoming you once again, I would like to pledge that eThekweni Municipality will contribute to the 6 million job opportunities by 2019 through EPWP projects. We are a caring City that is committed to transforming lives.

Thank you!