

## EPWP Awards Ceremony

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Good evening,

Sanibonani,

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Mayor and people of eThekweni and welcome you to this beautiful and wonderful city of Durban.

This event comes after announcements by MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs in KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Sihle Zikalala. This morning the MEC announced that there is more than R200 billion which will be pumped into the economy of KwaZulu-Natal in the next few years. This will create about 800 000 temporal jobs during the construction and development phase of the projects and a further 410 000 permanent jobs in the short to long term.

Programme director,

This gives us hope that there will be more job opportunities across the province. Our people will not be forced to relocate which adds a burden to cost of living. There will be work, jobs and food for most of us.

Our government is serious about ending poverty, unemployment and gap between the rich and poor. We are optimistic that some of those who are currently working under the EPWP programme will be employed. I encourage our EPWP workers to upgrade their skills portfolio and apply for these opportunities.

Recently, our President delivered a landmark Framework Agreement consisting of high-impact actions to drive job creation, job retention and economic growth. The agreement is an enabler for the creation of an estimated 275,000 jobs annually.

The Jobs Summit was a milestone set by President Cyril Ramaphosa in his 2018 State of the Nation Address to ease the serious unemployment challenge facing the country.

We are committed in creation of job opportunities especially for youth and women. EPWP provides a temporary relief to our problems hence we believe that the Framework that was delivered by President Ramaphosa will assist this nation.

Without any further waste of time, I would like to welcome you. I invite you to enjoy the beauty of Durban in this evening.

We are looking forward to a scooping one of the awards because we are an award winning city. We are used to winning and our work speaks for itself.

Last week we won three international awards in one evening and we have no doubt that we will leave this place with something.

At the end of the day our people have placed their hope in us, let's work hard and deliver the much needed jobs.

I thank you