

EXTRACTS OF RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PROVINCIAL OVERSIGHT REPORT

1.1.1 Recommendations on Asset Management and Maintenance

- The Mpumalanga, North West and Western Cape provinces asset management system initiatives should be taken as a case study to develop a holistic, accurate and reliable asset management system by the national and provincial departments.
- Audit of all state properties utilised, under-utilised and unutilised including all military bases must be completed and an interim report be tabled to Parliament before the end of the first quarter of 2006/2007 financial year. The Committee is conscious and not undermining the fact that the Departments of Public Works and Land Affairs are conducting a vetting process.
- The Committee recommends that a uniform and centralised PMIS must be developed to address this anomaly.
- An investigation and appropriate legal action should be instituted against all tenants who are unable to produce title deeds, certificate of occupation or lease agreement on demand.
- Services in vacant government properties that are unoccupied and those occupied by illegal occupants must be terminated.
- Lease and service agreements must be honoured by client departments and public institutions and defaulters be penalised.
- A mechanism must be developed to cause individuals who are occupying properties belonging to the state, knowing and unknowingly to declare their occupation in order to qualify for indemnity and failure to disclose be punishable by law.
- Cognisant of the fact that land restitution is still an ongoing process the finalisation of the asset register is dependent on the completion of the process.
- There must be uniformity on the disposal of state assets in all spheres of government.
- The NDPW must, in consultation with other Departments in all spheres of government, develop a uniform disposal policy of all state assets.
- Any disposal of government property, whether be at a national, provincial or local level of government, must be by agreement of all role players.
- The PDPW must have a disposal strategy for old and depreciated movable properties (i.e. plants and machinery). When auctioning takes place preference must be given to learner and emerging contractors.

- The Committee recommends that the maintenance and renovation of state properties must fall directly under the EPWP to ensure that emerging contractors and contractors in the Incubator programme are given preference.

2.3.1 Recommendations on Infrastructure:

- Late payments to emerging contractor must be avoided by paying them according to the schedule of the projects.
- The NDPW should look at the Regulations of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act and consider which amendments could be effected to strengthen this Act.
- The Committee recommends that the co-ordination and co-operation between NDPW and other departments at all spheres of government must adhere to contractual agreements entered into and payment must be made within prescribed period.
- The Committee notes that the department is investigating fronting and therefore an interim report should be table to Parliament on all acts of fronting that have been investigated and corrective measures taken, on or before the first quarter of 2006/2007 financial year.
- The department must assign dedicated inspectors to monitor and investigate fraudulent claims committed and shoddy work done by contractors and appropriate legal action be taken against perpetrators inclusive of blacklisting.
- Whilst the Committee appreciates the progress made by the office of the MEC and the Department of Public Works in the Eastern Cape in addressing the discrimination against women, it is incumbent to all departments in all spheres of government to act against the violation of women's rights at workplace.
- Occupational health standards are not maintained and adhered to at EPWP projects i.e Kgalagadi Transfrontier road and Chris Hani district municipality. The Committee recommends that the PPWD should continuously educate contractor workers about the importance of adhering to the occupational health safety standards.
- The NDPW must ensure that the Department of Labour assigns inspectors to enforce safety standards regulations.
- The Department of Labour should ensure that protective clothing is supplied to potentially hazardous projects.
- The Committee recommends that provinces must budget for maintenance of completed projects (i.e. Gundolashu road project).
- The mismanagement of Modimola Integrated flagship project must be investigated and a report must be tabled to Parliament before the end of the first quarter of 2006/2007 financial year.

- Consultants have committed to rectify the irregularities on the construction of the Stinkwater road in Tshwane and to comply with Council decision. The Committee recommends that a report be tabled to Parliament on this before the end of the first quarter of 2006/2007 financial year.

The Committee is concerned about youth of school going age working at the EPWP projects. The NDPW in collaboration with the Department of Education must investigate the socio-economic circumstances contributing to this and make necessary interventions i.e. in Kgalagadi Transfrontier road project and other projects in Upington.

2.4.1 Recommendations on Social Cluster

- The Departments of NDPW, Agriculture and Forestry must assist the communities in Limpopo and other provinces in fast tracking and developing community gardens as part of the EPWP.
- The Committee recommends that the PPWD should in consultation with Departments of Social Development and Health establish and or strengthen social cluster for the realisation of the objectives of the EPWP.

2.5.1. Recommendation on Environmental and Cultural Cluster

Disaster management must be devolved to municipalities to form part of job creation for the local community within the EPWP Guidelines.

- **3. Incubator PROGRAMME**
- The NDPW, Private sector and Institutions of higher learning must establish a joint venture whereby Built Environment graduates are placed on internships.
- The NDPW in cooperation with PPWD in the Eastern Cape must ensure that the CIDB implements the Incubator Programme and further consider the reviewal of the programme.
- The Committee commends the progress made on the learnership and skills transfer under the Incubator programme. The Provincial Public Works Departments must from time to time consolidate, synchronise and update the data of all beneficiaries of the EPWP.
- The short-term employment and the **lack of** sustainability of jobs created through the EPWP is viewed as constraint and a shortcoming. The Committee recommends the reviewal of the EPWP to accommodate long-term job opportunities.
- The Committee recognises the short period that emerging contractors spent on the Incubator programme. The NDPW should develop supporting mechanisms that would ensure sustainability of those contractors through NEPAD initiatives as they exit the programme.

4. SALGA and Municipalities

- The NDPW, PPWD and SALGA must assist, train and support the councillors in order to effectively fast track government programmes and meet set targets.
- Most municipalities were not sufficiently trained and briefed on the principles and guidelines of the EPWP and those that do, are inconsistent in the implementation thereof.
- The NDPW in consultation with DPLG should assist municipalities with the integration of MIG in the IDPs within the EPWP.
- The weaknesses observed in the local municipalities are unabated; the Committee recommends that the important complementary role played by the CDW must be clearly defined to avert unnecessary tensions at that tier of government.
- The under-utilisation and depreciation of the Multi Purpose Community Centres (MPC) at most municipalities is common. The municipalities should budget for the maintenance of the MPC.

5. Imbizo

Matters and concerns raised at the Imbizos

- Lack of budgeting for maintenance of EPWP infrastructure projects.
- That the involvement of the youth and people with disability in the construction industry is minimal
- Unprofessional, poor dissemination of information and service rendered by the department officials is unacceptable.
- The EPWP guidelines and information booklets are viewed as not assisting and not user friendly.
- Complicated and laborious tender documents were not user friendly.
- Fronting and alleged involvement of officials and councillors in irregular tendering processes.
- EPWP Guidelines are restrictive regarding overtime and medical health benefits that should accrue to workers.
- The EPWP does not provide sustainable employment.
- There is lack of clarity and envisaged support for emerging and learner contractors when emerging from the programme.

6. NEPAD PROGRAMMES

The Committee recommends that the National Department of Public Works should develop a clear policy that defines its role in NEPAD.

7. Conclusions

- Some public representatives have a challenge in understanding the concept and application of the EPWP. The current information booklet on the EPWP is inhibitive and lacks details.
- The role of the four sectors within which the EPWP operates must be clearly defined. Presently the work being done by the clusters is not well co-ordinated and an immediate intervention is needed.

- The bridging of the two economies through the EPWP must be clearly elaborated in the information booklets and pamphlets.
- The variance between the Labour Relation Act and EPWP Guidelines must be clearly defined. The Committee is of the view that the Guidelines should be reconsidered to be in tandem with the Labour laws.
- Coordination at all spheres of government is still a challenge with regard to the intergovernmental and interdepartmental relations.
- Section 13-14 of DORA elucidates how provinces and municipalities could apply the Act and mechanisms in the maintenance of the infrastructure, which is a perpetual challenge.
- Some provinces do not have a conclusive and reliable immovable and movable asset register. This must receive immediate attention and control measures be instituted.
- Immediate attention as recommended by the Committee in addressing the fronting and irregularities in the tendering process must be considered.
- The Committee notes that all provinces are striving to implement the EPWP by putting more emphasis on learnership and Skills transfers through CETA.
- The Committee further notes the commitment, enthusiasm and benefits received by beneficiaries of this programme.
- The Committee commends the training received and quality of work done by beneficiaries in various provinces despite logistical and teething problems experienced.
- The Committee observed that some communities are continuing to benefit from the EPWP objectives by establishment of own businesses i.e. job creation and poverty alleviation.
- The NDPW must give effect to the involvement of women, youth and people with disabilities in the EPWP as emphasised by the Committee.
- The municipalities must take control, full ownership and responsibility of maintaining the multi-purpose centres.
- The Committee urges and encourages departments and municipalities at local levels to optimise the utilisation of the multi-purpose centres.
- The Tugela dam as a resource could benefit the communities with water provision as immediate necessity and the creation of jobs for the construction of the water infrastructure.
- In the Northern Cape Province coordination of the programme is in the office of the Premier, which is commendable.

- Due to the vastness of the Northern Cape province, the provincial officials travel long distances from one region to another. To save on travelling expenses, the Committee recommends that the existing regional offices be resourced and sub regional offices be established where they do not exist.
- o As part of the EPWP the Departments of Public Works, Land and Agriculture, Forestry and Water Affairs and Provincial and Local Government in establishing agricultural projects to benefit the communities is encouraged.
- o Those departments that are not within the EPWP clusters must identify and commit programmes that will compliment the EPWP.
- o In the Free State Province the Provincial Steering Committee (PSC) has been established to coordinate the implementation of EPWP and that the EXCO takes the total responsibility of the implementation of the programme.
- o It is with appreciation that the empowerment of women is taking place i.e. one woman with no formal education in Mpumalanga supported by her child underwent through the learnership programme of the EPWP and graduated. She has established her own construction company that provided job opportunities for her community.
- o The Committee commends the Mpumalanga province for data capturing of all contractors and subcontractors as a best practice in the monitoring and exposing corrupt tendencies where some beneficiaries who were tenders are repeatedly awarded tenders at the exclusion of new applicants.