

QUESTION PAPER: WRITTEN REPLY

FRIDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2025

9. Ms P Z Lekker to ask Mr T A Simmers, Minister of Infrastructure:

(a) What is the total number of Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) job opportunities that have been created by his Department in the (i) 2019/20, (ii) 2020/21, (iii) 2021/22, (iv) 2022/23, (v) 2023/24, (vi) 2024/25 and (vii) 2025/26 financial years, (b)(i) what are the details of the specific projects at which these participants were employed and (ii) which of these opportunities were created through projects implemented by private service providers or contractors and (c)(i) what training, mentorship or skills development opportunities were made available to these EPWP participants during the same period as in (a) above and (ii) how many participants, if any, have subsequently been absorbed into permanent or contractual employment in his Department or its implementing agencies between 2019 and 2025?

RESPONSE

The Department remains committed to creating work opportunities, providing skills development, and supporting socio-economic upliftment through EPWP projects across the Province. The response below addresses each component of the question for the financial years **2019/20 to 2025/26**. It should be noted that the information for 2019/20 to 2022/23 reflects the former Department of Transport and Public Works (DTPW), while data for 2023/24 onwards reflects the current Department of Infrastructure. The information for 2025/26 is up to the end of September 2025.

(a) EPWP Job Opportunities per Financial Year

The following EPWP job opportunities were created:

| Financial Year | WO Target | WO Achieved | % Achieved | FTE Target | FTE Achieved | % Achieved |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| 2019/2020      | 7 000     | 6 447       | 92%        | 2 313      | 3 941        | 170%       |
| 2020/2021      | 7 420     | 5 175       | 70%        | 2 452      | 3 253        | 133%       |
| 2021/2022      | 7 865     | 2 214       | 28%        | 2 599      | 552          | 21%        |

|                  |               |               |            |               |               |            |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| <b>2022/2023</b> | 8 337         | <b>4 480</b>  | <b>54%</b> | 2 755         | <b>1 320</b>  | <b>48%</b> |
| <b>2023/2024</b> | 8 837         | <b>6 420</b>  | <b>73%</b> | 2 920         | <b>1 881</b>  | <b>64%</b> |
| <b>2024/2025</b> | 9 451         | <b>4 704</b>  | <b>50%</b> | 2 610         | <b>1 772</b>  | <b>68%</b> |
| <b>2025/2026</b> | 9 697         | <b>3 301</b>  | <b>34%</b> | 2 707         | <b>791</b>    | <b>29%</b> |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>58 607</b> | <b>32 741</b> | <b>55%</b> | <b>18 356</b> | <b>13 510</b> | <b>73%</b> |

WO = Work Opportunities; FTE = Full-Time Equivalent

**Source: Q4 2019 -2024/2025 Annexures – NDPWI & Q2 2025/2026: Validated Report (PBO1a)**

**(b) (i) Details of Specific Projects implemented by the Department:**

The list of projects where participants were employed has been attached as an Excel document. The Department implemented a range of projects across key sectors, summarized as follows:

**Project Categories:**

- **Roads and Stormwater** – e.g., road rehabilitation, stormwater upgrades, pothole patching.
- **Housing** – e.g., construction of subsidized houses, housing projects.
- **Buildings** – e.g., maintenance of buildings, clinics, schools
- **Waste Management** – e.g., cleaning programmes,
- **Other** – e.g., administrative support, data capturers, skills development programmes, apprenticeships, learnerships

**(c) (i) Training, Mentorship, and Skills Development Opportunities**

During the same period, EPWP participants were provided with training and skills development opportunities, including but not limited to:

- Construction site health & safety,
- General Skills Programmes such as: Community Home Builder
- Construction related Learnerships such as: Welding, Bricklaying, Plumbing, Air-conditioning, Landscaping, Painting
- Construction related Apprenticeships such as: Plumbing, Electrical, Boiler-making

**(c) (ii) Absorption into Permanent or Contractual Employment**

The Department does not have a formal tracking mechanism for EPWP participants after the completion of their work opportunities. This is due to practical challenges such as participants changing contact details and the absence of a centralized post-employment tracking system.

Information on absorption into permanent or contractual employment is therefore based on voluntary feedback from participants who contact the Department after leaving the programme. The Skills Development Unit has had some individuals inform us of securing employment or starting businesses, such as the success stories listed below in Annexure A.

**TERTUIS SIMMERS**

**MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE**

**DATE:**