

CLOSING ADDRESS BY THE MEC FOR COGHSTA, HONOURABLE MAKOMA MAKHURUPETJE, DELIVERED ON BEHALF FOR MEC AZWINNDINI JEREMIAH DINGAAN NDOU ON THE OCCASION TO MARK THE CLOSING OF THE 3RD EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME SUMMIT ON THE 27TH AUGUST 2014 AT THE BOLIVIA LODGE, POLOKWANE.

Thank you programme Director

Executive mayors present today

Mayors of Local municipalities,

Chief Whips

Members of the Mayoral Committees of different municipalities

Representatives from the National Departments

Representatives from ILO

Acting Head of Department

Senior management and staff of the department

Municipal managers present

Invited guests

Ladies and gentlemen.

I am standing before you today on behalf of the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Azwinndini Jeremiah Dingaam Ndou who is out on other official duties, to present the closing remarks of this 3rd EPWP Summit in the province of Limpopo.

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is a national flagship programme, seeks to address the single greatest challenge facing this country today which is unemployment and poverty. As we emerge out of this Summit we must all commit ourselves to deliver on the resolutions that came out of this gathering.

Our effort to transform the government continues to occupy our central focus. As the coalface of service delivery, we are moving ahead to construct a capable responsive government and to attack poverty and economic marginalization in order to restore public confidence.

We need to leave this summit with a clear understanding of what we collectively, and individually, need to do to fulfill our people's aspirations, and to deliver the undertaking we have made, as part of government, to ensure a better life for all our people.

Programme director

I firmly believe, once more, that this Summit has accorded us a viable opportunity and enabling environment for clinical analysis

and assessment of our performance over the years. It also provided us with a clear-cut vision and formidable way-forward for the years to come.

At the end of this two-day intensive session of deliberations, we are now clear on the direction we want the province to take in the foreseeable future of EPWP.

As we leave here today here today we must be indispensable as a collective school of shared learning, a common compass and a platform of mutual accountability.

In our municipalities we must be steadfast and strive towards contributing to the reduction of unemployment especially amongst the youth and people with disabilities. We can only do this if we become fair in everything that we do, for the unemployment has no boundaries, it affects everyone, irrespective of their background.

What is of utmost importance, and that will assist us in averting the challenges that we experienced in the previous two phases, is to increase community participation. We can achieve this through being more visible as leaders in this programme by taking allowing ownership especially by the poor.

We must also place more emphasis on the quality of implementation, through the quality of service being delivered,

and this can only be achieved if we appoint qualified service providers.

Let us go out there and raise awareness amongst EPWP staff and equip them to be the ambassadors of this phase whose aim is provide work opportunities and income support to the poor and the unemployed.

We must also engage all the stakeholders on the progress made for the smooth and well-coordinated implementation, but also commit to learn from the past mistakes.

In conclusion I call upon all executive mayors and mayors, with their technical managers to commit themselves to participate actively in this phase so that they ensure that implementation is done in the right way.

We have all taken note of the Summit resolutions and what is left of us is to ensure that they see the light of the day.

Thank you.