

**SPEECH BY THE LIMPOPO MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE HONOURABLE AZWINNDINI JEREMIAH DINGAAN NDOU ON THE OCCASION TO OPEN THE 3<sup>RD</sup> PROVINCIAL EPWP SUMMIT ON THE 26<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST AT THE BOLIVIA LODGE, POLOKWANE.**

Thank you Programme Director

Acting Head of Department

Officials from the National Department of Public Works led by the Deputy Director General for EPWP Mr. Stanley Henderson

Senior management of the department

Entire staff members

Ladies and gentlemen

Today marks the official opening of the third Provincial EPWP Summit which follows last night's Gala Dinner where all the mayors from the municipalities in our province gathered under one roof to sign the Protocol Agreement on the successful implementation of the EPWP Programme.

From what we experienced during last night's signing by all mayors, one could feel that indeed the third phase of the programme is destined for greater heights. Every mayor signed for their respective municipalities, and now the ball is in your

hands to ensure that you come up with strategies and measures that will move the province forward.

During the departmental strategic planning session that was held in Bela Bela recently, Public Service Commission reported that as the provincial department we are not performing to satisfaction in the creation of jobs. Most worrying is that people with disabilities are the least beneficiaries.

Meeting here today and for the next two days, we must all work together to reverse the trend and ensure that the Expanded Public Works Programme becomes the sector of choice for all as far as job creation is concerned.

As the department we have recorded a notable progress in the first and second phase, and going forward let us make it our business that the less fortunate and the youth reap the rewards that come with EPWP. We will provide political support and monitoring of the progress in the implementation of the programme.

The onus lies with you as you embark on your commissions. The aspirations and hopes of the people of Limpopo are on you, because in you they see those individuals who will rescue them from the claws of poverty.

I wish all the commissions everything of the best as you will be going out to discuss the challenges and success experienced within EPWP so as to pave the way forward for a smooth implementation throughout the province. Work together with the national delegation which is here with us to provide guidance throughout the summit.

Thank you