



Together

## Expanded Public Works is on Target to Provide 1million Work Opportunities



“Some people think that great pioneers who lead the way, break new ground and forge ahead of the ordinary have discovered all we need to know. But I think that those of you working on the Expanded Public Works Programme are pioneering new ways of providing productive work for our people that are every bit as important as the work done by people like Mark Shuttleworth”. With these words Saguna Gordhan, Chief Operating Officer of the Business Trust congratulated the winners of the first Komotso Awards at a ceremony hosted by the Minister of Public Works at Constitution Hill, Johannesburg on Thursday, 15 February.

The Komotso Awards jointly sponsored by the Department of Public Works and the Business Trust as part of the Business Trust Expanded Public Works Support Programme, were made to government departments, public works projects and managers of those projects at a ceremony attended by business leaders including the co-Chairman of the Business Trust, Mr David Brink, members of the executive councils, mayors of municipalities, ministers and heads of departments of provincial governments.

The Komotso Awards acknowledge excellence in the provision of public service through the Expanded Public Works Programme.



In making the awards the Minister Thoko Didiza described the significance of the work in each of the sectors in which the public works programme operates, including infrastructure, environmental services such as fire protection, water, management and waste services, and the social sector including early childhood care and home and community-based care for needy people. She indicated that she believed that what distinguished South Africa's public works programme from many around the world was its location within a suite of government programmes designed to deal with poverty and unemployment and its commitment to the enhancing of the skills of those who participate in the programme.

The awards which amounted to R50 000 in each of the categories were:

Project Category: The Makwane project  
Departmental/Municipality Category: The Roads Agency, Polokwane Municipality;  
Individual Category: Nr Allan Zimbwa, Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

In concluding her comments Saguna Gordhan said that the partnership between the Business Trust and the Department of Public Works was built on the recognition of the desperate situation that many South African households find themselves in. She said that with 8.1 million working age people not at work, the Public Works programme offers a chance out of an otherwise desperate situation and makes a contribution to restoring dignity and hope for the people concerned. The Business Trust she said was delighted to be part of that process of demonstrating a business commitment to those people and showing the value of working in partnership to address one of South Africa's major challenges.

### **Corporate Partners learn more about Expanded Public Works**



In order to give the Business Trust's corporate partners an understanding of the project, the Business Trust, invited corporate partners to a presentation on the programme followed by visits to two public works sites on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February. Guests heard presentations from Ismail Akhalwaya, Senior Programme Manager for the national programme, and Alan Campbell, Programme Manager from Shisaka Development Management Services who are implementing the Business Trust's Expanded Public Works Support

Programme. Mr Akhalwaya updated the audience on the latest results of the national programme and showed that the programme is on target to produce 1,000,000 work opportunities for some of South Africa's poorest people by 2010. Particular success had been made in the infrastructure sector of the programme. The infrastructure sector is one of four sectors that compose the programme; the other three being environmental, social, and economic. Our corporate partners then heard from Mr Campbell, who outlined how the Business Trust aims to help provide 300,000 of the million work opportunities. The party then travelled to a grass cutting project in one of Joburg's inner city parks, and then on to Soweto to meet employees of a water meter installation programme that is employing people from the local community to address over consumption of water in the area.

The Expanded Public Works Support Programme is a project of the Business Trust, in partnership with the Department of Public Works, aimed at supporting the implementation of the Expanded Public Works Public Programme. The Support Programme seeks to enhance and complement the Department of Public Work's efforts to implement the EPWP. The Support Programme runs focused and prioritised programmes, which seek to maximise the achievement of the national targets.

To read more on the Business Trust's Expanded Public Works Support Programme visit [http://www.btrust.org.za/index.aspx?\\_id=127&id=8&sid=1](http://www.btrust.org.za/index.aspx?_id=127&id=8&sid=1)

If you would like to be notified of forthcoming events, please contact Lorna Pisanti on 011 612 2000 or email [lorna@btrust.org.za](mailto:lorna@btrust.org.za).

### **Expanded Public Works in the Press**

Minister of Public Works, Thoko Didiza gives a frank interview in the Sunday Times.

To read the article visit:

[http://www.btrust.org.za/Images/Programmes/ART\\_EPWP\\_SundayTimes\\_26Feb07.pdf](http://www.btrust.org.za/Images/Programmes/ART_EPWP_SundayTimes_26Feb07.pdf)