

City targets 110 000 in public works jobs scheme

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The Tshwane metro aimed to create 110 000 jobs in this financial year, through the extended public works programme (EPWP).

This was said when the metro launched phase 4 job selection process at Tshwane House in the Pretoria CBD.

Tshwane mayor Stevens Mokgalapa said the EPWP was one of the efforts created to reduce unemployment, alleviate poverty, and provide residents with experience through labour-intensive work opportunities.

“The random selection through a live lottery ensures that the DA-led administration remains committed to fairness, compliance, equal opportunities and empowerment,” Mokgalapa said.

He said this was not possible if the system became prone to manipulation, corruption and nepotism.

“The city has set itself a target to create 110 000 jobs in this financial year, through the EPWP. This is done in a context to effect redress with 60 percent of the vacancies filled by women and a new 5 percent indigent target.”

Mokgalapa said this was a significant increase from phase 3 target of 106 000 jobs and a 55 percent women’s composition.

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“Rising unemployment remains a concern, with a 29 percent rate nationally; the city’s 3.3 million resident population is marred with a 23.3 percent unemployment rate.

“Without jobs, households risk falling into poverty as a result of constrained resources,” said Mokgalapa.

He said as of November 2019, the database registered over 145 000 jobs.

“It’s clear that the demand for work opportunities surpasses the city’s current capacity to meet this need.”

He said the enormous interest shown by job seekers highlighted the urgency to continue finding solutions to the country's unemployment crisis, especially for the youth.