

Video Transcript

Gauteng Province is transforming its Department of Infrastructure Development and improving social and economic wellbeing of the community

A large purple chevron graphic pointing to the right, containing the text "High performance. Delivered." in white.

High performance. Delivered.

Jacob Mamabolo, Member of the Executive Council, Gauteng Department of Infrastructure Development:

We now have for the first time, a portfolio of immovable assets that are owned, controlled and managed by the Provincial government through the Department of Infrastructure Development.

These assets constitute a portfolio which belongs to the people.

DID has been mandated by the Executive Council of the Province as the custodian of all the land and the buildings that we own in the Province: health, education, sports and recreation, economic development, agriculture, social development... with a total book estimated, actually confirmed at 30 billion [rand] and we are still putting more assets into the immovable asset register.

One of the big problems we have is capital formation in townships, because remember, given the history of our country, people never had ownership of assets.

They couldn't properly relate with publicly owned assets, they were seen as part of system, property of the enemy system related to the government at that time.

The transition of appreciating commonly owned properties, as now the property of everybody, and relating positively with it, that transition will not have happened in many of our people.

They themselves never owned assets, the first time they will have owned an asset is an RTP house.

So that's why, we also have, through the immovable asset register, we must go and educate the people.

Rae Davids, Chief Director, Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP):

The Gauteng Department of Infrastructure Development is the coordinating department for the EPWP program.

But more importantly, jobs are not created by only GDID, jobs are created by all our municipalities, and all our departments.

In the different sectors we have the infrastructure sector, we have the environment and culture sector, the social sector and the non-state sector.

And we have had a problem actually consolidating numbers from these different public bodies, and there are 19 in the Province, to actually come on to one

reporting system to say, these are the numbers of jobs that government is creating.

So we draw our numbers from the Primavera system, and then we then validate how those jobs were created, what type of activities the beneficiaries are engaged in, and more importantly what the social economic benefit is to the communities where those projects are located.

And what we are now able to showcase with these two systems is not only the type of money that is invested by government into in our communities, into the pockets of our beneficiaries, and more importantly, into those homes where nothing exists.

We have a policy where we draw a beneficiary out of a home where nobody works.

So we select our beneficiaries based on those principles, so we are putting bread on the table.

The EPWP is not necessarily about creating wealth.

It's actually a poverty alleviation program.

And what we're now able to showcase is not only monetary investment into our households, into our communities, but we're also able to showcase what type of skill we are teaching these beneficiaries for future jobs.

Because look this particularly program is not necessarily about creating a long term permanent job.

But if you are teaching somebody to lay a brick, you are teaching somebody to glaze, you are teaching somebody to do tiling, paving, we are now able to teach skill, encourage them to form SMMEs or co-ops, and they therefore have some level of sustainability post the project.