
MEDIA STATEMENT

For immediate release
Sunday, 20 July 2025

CLARITY ON EPWP ANNOUNCEMENT – NO NEPOTISM, ONLY LEGAL AND COMPASSIONATE GOVERNANCE

Polokwane Municipality has noted with concern the misleading commentary circulating on public platforms, alleging nepotism in the recent announcement that unemployed residents who participated in Nelson Mandela Day activities will be considered for the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

The municipality rejects, with the contempt it deserves, any attempt to distort a social development initiative into a false narrative of nepotism. The Executive Mayor's commitment to uplift the unemployed, especially those who show initiative and community spirit, remains firm **but always within the bounds of the law**.

Let it be categorically stated: **there is no nepotism, no irregularity and no preferential treatment** in the process.

The individuals referred to during the Executive Mayor's Mandela Day address were simply acknowledged for their voluntary service and were **registered in the municipality's unemployment database**. This registration **does not guarantee employment**, but places them into the system for consideration, **subject to qualification and compliance** with all existing EPWP recruitment criteria.

It is crucial to understand that **EPWP is not a conventional employment programme**, but rather a **social intervention mechanism** designed by the national government to provide **temporary relief** to the poor and unemployed. It is one of many such interventions like social grants, indigent support to receive free basic services geared towards **restoring dignity and providing livelihoods** to vulnerable groups.

The Executive Mayor, in his capacity as political leader, is **well within his legal mandate to pronounce on the expansion of EPWP opportunities** as part of



broader developmental priorities. In terms of **Section 56(2)(d) of the Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000)**, the Executive Mayor is responsible for the development of the municipality's strategy, including initiatives linked to the **Integrated Development Plan (IDP)** and **Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP)**. This includes championing interventions like EPWP that aim to improve the material conditions of our people.

However, the **recruitment and appointment of EPWP participants** remains an **administrative function**, handled strictly by the office of the City Manager, and must comply with **transparent** and **fair processes**, as guided by EPWP national recruitment guidelines and municipal policy.

The process currently unfolding is consistent with these legal frameworks and administrative standards. Those registered are being **screened for eligibility**, and **no one is appointed by political instruction or favouritism**.

Polokwane Municipality urges the public to seek clarity from credible sources and to support programmes aimed at **empowering communities**, not undermining them with reckless accusations.

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