

“WE WANT PERMANENT! - NO JOB, NO EXIT!!”

This was the determined message of EPWP workers from Gauteng’s “5 corridors” when they met for a campaign planning meeting in Johannesburg on 9 November under the able leadership of the EPWP workers’ forum. The campaign is underway.

WORKERS ARE DETERMINED TO FIGHT AND TO WIN:

**1.
ACCREDITED
TRAINING FOLLOWED
BY GUARANTEED JOBS**

**2.
R10,000 MINIMUM
WAGE & PERMANENT
JOBS**

**3.
DECENT PENSIONS
RECOGNISING
LENGTH OF SERVICE**

FIGHTING UNEMPLOYMENT

10.3 million are unemployed – a record high level of 38.8%. Amongst 15-24 year olds 58% cannot find work. If EPWP was created to tackle unemployment – then let it do so!

- **When older workers retire their posts must stay and be filled by new workers.**
- **When EPWP started in 2013 there were 7,000 positions. Six years later we are down to 5,400. The missing posts should be filled.**

Who should hire the new workers? Jobs should be filled from lists of names that are drawn-up democratically and with full transparency by the EPWP workers’ own structures - the forum etc.

TIME TO MARCH

At the 9 November meeting, Stena Molepo told EPWP workers how after a long campaign, the City of Joburg had agreed to employ 250+ unfairly dismissed workers. Weizmann Hamilton, speaking for the Marxist Workers Party, spoke about the recent strike of cleaners at the University of Johannesburg (where some EPWP Mickey Mouse ‘training’ had taken place) and the plight of EPWP workers cleaning Metrobus.

EPWP workers must reach out to these workers, and others, to support them. With the attacks on workers raining down at SAA, Eskom, and elsewhere, the EPWP workers must be prepared to take part in united action with the entire workers movement against job losses, austerity and privatisation; for permanent jobs and R10,000 per month minimum wage – a march to Union Buildings of a trade union united front is on the cards.

EPWP “POVERTY ALLEVIATION”? FOR WHO..?

There is no “poverty alleviation” on R2,000 per month! Or even on R3,500 per month... Poverty alleviation starts at R10,000 per month!

But the politicians and officials that manage the scheme are doing very well:

Deputy president: R3,100,000 per year. Or R258,000 per month.
Equal to 130 EPWP workers.

Gauteng premier: R2,260,409 per year. Or R188,000 per month.
Equal to 94 EPWP workers.

Member of Provincial Legislature: R1,071,351 per year. Or R89,000 per month.
Equal to 44 EPWP workers.

Provincial director: R1,076,990 per year. Or R90,000 per month.
Equal to 45 EPWP workers.

Provincial deputy director: R761,380 per year. Or R63,000 per month.
Equal to 31 EPWP workers.

If you took just **ONE** person from each of these posts, then **FIVE** people together earn the same as **344** EPWP workers!!



The Marxist Workers Party has a clear position: no elected official should earn more than the average wage of a skilled worker/artisan.