

DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

# Labour Intensive Construction; Opportunities for Transformation

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#### References

- DPW Guidelines for the Implementation of Labour-Intensive Infrastructure Projects under the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)
  - SANS 1914-5:2002 Standard for targeted labour participation
- Labour-based methods and technologies for employment intensive construction works; A cidb guide to best practice
- Implementing employment intensive road works; A cidb practice manual





# **Labour Intensive Construction (LIC)**

- Labour intensive construction refers to methods of construction:
  - involving a mix of machines and labour
  - where labour, utilising hand tools and light plant and equipment, is preferred to the use of heavy machines
  - where technically and economically feasible
- Labour-intensive infrastructure projects under the EPWP include:
  - using labour intensive construction methods to provide employment opportunities to local unemployed people
  - providing training or skills development to those locally employed workers
  - building cost-effective and quality assets



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# **Opportunities**

- General building is inherently labour intensive
- Development and maintenance of municipal services, and in particular within townships with limited infrastructure, offer opportunities for labour intensive construction:
  - low-volume roads (typically less than 500 vehicles per day)
  - sidewalks and non-motorised transport infrastructure
  - stormwater drainage
  - trenching
- Need exists to upscale and mainstream EPWP and labour intensive opportunities



# **Contractor Participation**

- Labour intensive construction:
  - provides opportunities for participation by small and medium contractors
  - provides opportunities for growth of contractors
  - provides opportunities for local labour
  - often term contracts
  - low plant requirements
  - high supervision requirements



### **Role of the Professions**

Professions are not adequately skilled in design for labour intensive construction



#### **Cost Effectiveness**

#### Constitution:

 Section 217 requires that procurement must be costeffective

#### EPWP:

- Guidelines conform to the PFMA requirement for assessing the cost-effectiveness of capital projects
- Normal emphasis on the cost-effectiveness and quality of asset must be retained



# Wage and Task Rates

- EPWP wage rates subject to Ministerial Determination:
  - R75.10 per day (maximum 8 hours per day)
- Bargaining Council for the Civil Engineering Industry:
  - Task Grade 1 (general worker); R244.17 per 9 hour day
  - Task Grade 4 (construction hand Gr II); R262.80 per 9 hour day



## **Conclusions**

- Labour intensive construction is not restricted to EPWP:
  - EPWP Guidelines and SANS1514-5 can be specified in contract
- Labour intensive construction should be used where technically and economically feasible:
  - need to scale up labour intensive construction
- Key decisions impacting on labour intensive construction must be recognised early on in the procurement strategy:
  - professions need to be trained in labour intensive construction techniques





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Thank You