

Alleviating Poverty in South Africa – A Theoretical Overview of the Expanded Public Works Program

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ABSTRACT Poverty alleviation is a challenge facing most developing countries. This paper reports on one national government strategy, namely the Expanded Public Works Program (EPWP) which was implemented in South Africa (SA) to primarily address poverty and unemployment in rural areas. The paper sketches the journey from the projects of the national Department of Public Works (DPW) aimed at poverty alleviation, to general community-based public works programs, and finally to the EPWP. After providing the background to the SA government's poverty alleviation strategy, the discussion hones in on the EPWP, its organization, focus, operational plan and training framework. The discussion culminates in a brief explanation of the monitoring and evaluation framework for the EPWP.