

23/07/2026

Write-Up

Minister's In-Year Monitoring Meeting



**Employment and Labour Minister:
Nomakhosazana Meth**

**Provinces
achieve 100% on
Public
Employment
Services:
2025/26 financial
year**

“I wish to congratulate all provincial offices, labour centres and officials who have worked tirelessly to ensure that unemployed South Africans are connected to opportunities. These achievements bring us closer to our vision of creating pathways into employment, supporting inclusive economic growth and restoring hope to millions of job-seekers.” — Minister Nomakhosazana Meth

#Yazini

Department of Employment and Labour | @deptoflabour | employmentandlabour



employment & labour
Department:
Employment and Labour
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

A NATION
THAT WORKS FOR ALL



Following the Executive Committee’s assessment of first-quarter performance and departmental priorities, the Department of Employment and Labour convened the Minister’s In-Year Monitoring meeting on 23 July 2026. Chaired by Employment and Labour Minister Nomakhosazana Meth, the meeting provided a platform for the Ministry and senior management to interrogate performance, assess progress against strategic commitments and determine the interventions required to strengthen delivery during the remainder of the financial year.

Productivity SA reports strong progress in enterprise support and job retention

The Minister’s In-Year Monitoring meeting started on a high note, with Productivity SA presenting strong progress across its key programmes.

The entity achieved all nine of its planned performance indicators during the first quarter of the 2026/27 financial year, recording 100% performance for the reporting period.

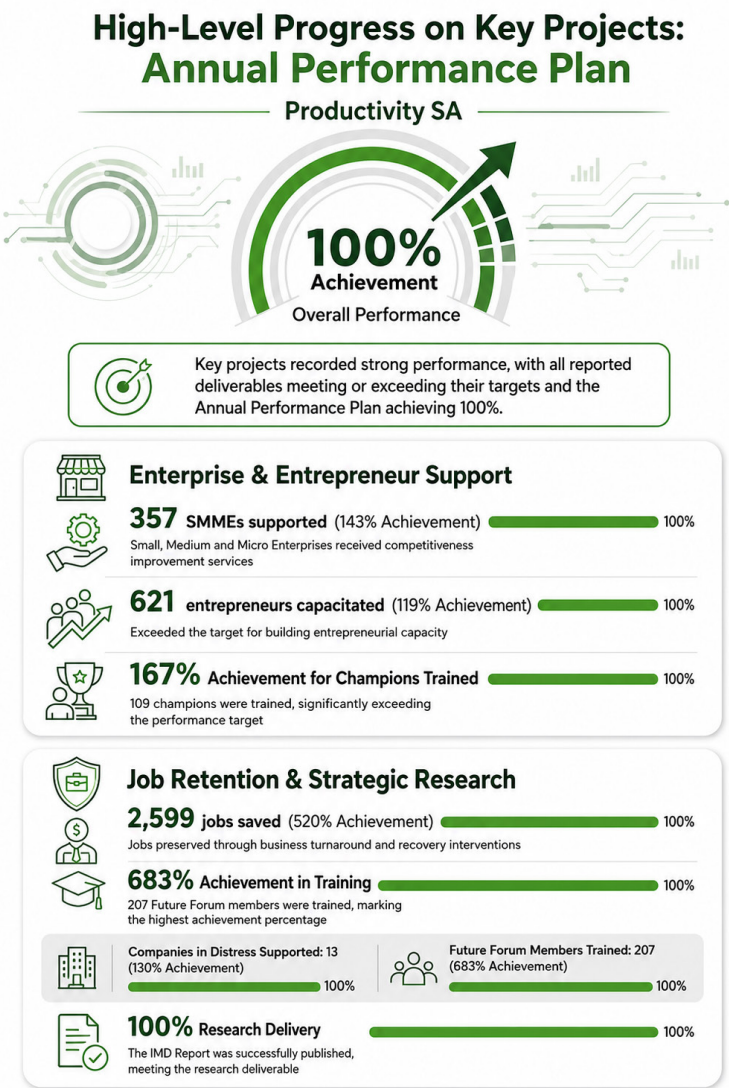
Under the Competitiveness Improvement Services programme, the entity supported 357 formal and informal SMMEs, achieving 143% of its target. It also capacitated 621 entrepreneurs, representing 119% achievement, and trained 109 productivity champions as part of the District Development Model, exceeding the applicable target by 67%.

The Business Turnaround and Recovery programme also recorded significant results. Productivity SA supported 13 companies in distress, saved 2,599 jobs and trained 207 Future Forum members. The number of jobs retained represented 520% achievement against the quarterly target, while the training of Future Forum members exceeded the target by 583%.

The entity further reported that South Africa had improved its position in the 2026 IMD World Competitiveness Ranking, moving from 64th place in 2025 to 54th out of 70 participating economies. The improvement was welcomed as a positive development, although the ranking continues to highlight the need to strengthen the country’s economic performance, institutional effectiveness, business environment and infrastructure.

Minister Meth welcomed the progress but emphasised that enterprise-support interventions should also contribute directly to employment creation and workplace exposure.

“We want to use both small and big businesses to open up opportunities for our people.” — Minister Nomakhosazana Meth



DEL Group records marked improvement in annual performance

The Department of Employment and Labour and its public entities recorded a significant improvement in their unaudited annual performance for the 2025/26 financial year.

Based on the performance information submitted by the Department and entities, , the DEL Group achieved 88 of its 99 annual performance indicators, resulting in an overall achievement rate of 89%. This represents a 17-percentage-point improvement from the 72% recorded during the 2024/25 financial year.

The improvement was reflected across the Department and its entities. The Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration achieved all 24 of its planned indicators, recording 100% performance. Productivity SA improved from 85% to 92%, while NEDLAC increased its performance from 88% to 94%.

Supported Employment Enterprises recorded the largest improvement, rising from 33% to 75%, while the Unemployment Insurance Fund improved from 62% to 71%. The Department’s overall performance increased from 71% to 86%, with 24 of its 28 annual indicators achieved.

The Department’s improvement was driven largely by strong performance in its service-delivery programmes. Inspection and Enforcement Services, Public Employment Services and Labour Policy and Industrial Relations each achieved 100% of their annual performance indicators.

The Minister noted that the Department’s performance had recovered strongly following the decline recorded during the previous financial year, reflecting improved monitoring, stronger leadership oversight and sustained implementation at operational level.

The improvement was welcomed as evidence that sustained monitoring, leadership oversight and implementation at operational level were beginning to translate into stronger organisational performance.

Minister Meth welcomed the progress but emphasised that enterprise-support interventions should also contribute directly to employment creation and workplace exposure.

“We want to use both small and big businesses to open up opportunities for our people.” — Minister Nomakhosazana Meth



The Department’s improvement was driven largely by strong performance in its service-delivery programmes. Inspection and Enforcement Services, Public Employment Services and Labour Policy and Industrial Relations each achieved 100% of their annual performance indicators.

PES provinces surpass all Quarter 1 targets

Public Employment Services recorded exceptional provincial performance during the first quarter of the 2026/27 financial year, with all nine provinces surpassing their targets across the branch’s four key service-delivery indicators. By the end of June 2026, PES had registered 329,331 work-seekers on ESSA against a target of 252,000, achieving 131%. A total of 73,487 employment opportunities were registered against a target of 31,250, representing 235% achievement, while 110,006 work-seekers received employment counselling services against a target of 67,200, achieving 164%. The branch also facilitated the filling of 33,600 employment opportunities, exceeding the quarterly target of 18,750 and achieving 179%.

Limpopo emerged as the strongest-performing province by percentage across the four indicators, while Gauteng recorded the highest volumes of work-seeker registrations and employment opportunities. The broad-based overachievement across all provinces demonstrates the growing reach of PES services and the effectiveness of provincial offices in connecting work-seekers with counselling, employment opportunities and placement support.

Public Employment Services: Q1 2026 Performance Dashboard

Public Employment Services exceeded all four Quarter 1 targets by the end of June 2026. The performance highlights a surge in both work-seeker engagement and job opportunity fulfillment compared to established goals.

Work-Seeker Engagement



131%
Achievement
in ESSA
Registrations

Target: 252,000

Actual: 329,331
work-seekers registered

Employment Counselling



164%
Achievement
in Employment
Counselling

Target: 67,200

Actual: 110,006
work-seekers received
counselling

Opportunity & Placement



235%
Achievement
in Registered
Opportunities

Target: 41,250

Actual: 73,487
employment opportunities
were registered

Opportunity & Placement



179%
Achievement
in Opportunities
Filled

Target: 18,750

Actual: 33,600
employment opportunities
were successfully filled

PES Q1 2026: Exceeding National Employment Targets

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICES Q1 PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS



All nine provinces exceeded their Quarter 1 targets across the four Public Employment Services performance indicators.

NATIONAL PERFORMANCE MILESTONES



Achievement in
Opportunity Registration
235%

100% Target

Actual Performance

Over 73,400 employment opportunities were registered, more than double the initial Q1 target.



Work-seekers
Registered on ESSA
131%

100% Target

Q1 Target: 252,000

Actual: 329,331

National registration efforts exceeded the Q1 target by 31% (77,331 individuals).



Success Rate in
Filling Positions
179%

100% Target

Q1 Target: 18,750

Actual: 33,600

33,600 registered employment opportunities were successfully filled during the quarter.

REGIONAL PERFORMANCE LEADERS

Limpopo: The National
Achievement Leader

421%
achievement
for placements



Limpopo secured the highest achievement rate across all indicators, reaching 421% for placements.

Gauteng: The High-Volume Hub

74,037 Work-seekers
registered

18,872 Opportunities
registered



Gauteng registered the highest absolute numbers for work-seekers (74,037) and opportunities (18,872).



Universal Provincial Success:
110,006
services provided
(164% of target).

Funds, entities and departmental programmes report on performance

The meeting also received presentations from the Unemployment Insurance Fund, Compensation Fund, Supported Employment Enterprises, NEDLAC and the Department's programmes. The reports provided a high-level account of performance, financial and operational matters, risks and the interventions required to sustain delivery. These presentations were considered within the broader context of the Department's improved annual performance and the need to maintain momentum during the 2026/27 financial year.

Minister's remarks

Minister Meth welcomed the overall improvement recorded by the Department and its entities and commended the political and administrative leadership, provincial offices, labour centres and officials whose work contributed to the results. She said the performance presented during the IYM demonstrated that the Department's interventions were beginning to make a meaningful impact in the lives of South Africans. While recognising the achievements, the Minister urged the Department to build on the gains, intensify efforts to connect unemployed people to opportunities, protect workers' rights and improve labour-market outcomes across the country.

"I wish to congratulate all provincial offices, labour centres and officials who have worked tirelessly to ensure that unemployed South Africans are connected to opportunities. These achievements bring us closer to our vision of creating pathways into employment, supporting inclusive economic growth and restoring hope to millions of job-seekers." — Minister Nomakhosazana Meth

**Brought to you by the
Department's Corporate
Communication.**

Date: 23 July 2026

MINISTER'S IN-YEAR MONITORING REVEALS OUTSTANDING GAINS AS PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICES ACHIEVES 100% PERFORMANCE

According to the Department's 2025/26 Annual Performance Report presented during the Minister's In-Year Monitoring meeting, Public Employment Services, Inspection and Enforcement Services, and Labour Policy and Industrial Relations each achieved 100% of their annual performance targets, while the Department attained an overall performance level of 86%

Minister of Employment and Labour, Nomakhosazana Meth, has commended provincial offices and officials of the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL) for delivering exceptional results across key employment and labour market programmes during the 2025/26 financial year.

The commendation follows the presentation of the Department's Annual Performance Report during the Minister's In-Year Monitoring (IYM) Meeting held on 23 July 2026, where the Department reported an overall performance achievement of 86%, with 24 out of 28 annual targets achieved. Three core programmes, Public Employment Services (PES), Inspection and Enforcement Services (IES), and Labour Policy and Industrial Relations (LP&IR), each achieved a perfect 100% performance score.

A major highlight of the report was the outstanding performance of the Public Employment Services (PES) Branch, which improved from 83% in 2024/25 to 100% achievement in 2025/26, successfully attaining all eight of its annual targets.

Through the Employment Services of South Africa (ESSA) system, the Department registered 1 129 464 work-seekers, exceeding the target of one million registrations and achieving 113% of the target. Every province exceeded its registration target, with Free State achieving 147%, Mpumalanga 127%, Limpopo 119%, Eastern Cape 115%, Northern Cape 114%, North West 112%, Gauteng 111%, KwaZulu-Natal 108%, and Western Cape 103%.

The Department also recorded exceptional results in the registration of employment opportunities on ESSA. Against a target of 120 000 opportunities, a total of 268 210 employment opportunities were registered nationally, translating to an impressive 224% achievement rate. Gauteng led with 307% achievement, followed by Free State (279%), North West (262%), Limpopo (248%) and Northern Cape (239%).

These opportunities translated into real employment outcomes, with 116 044 work-seekers successfully placed into employment opportunities, surpassing the target of 70 000



employment & labour

Department:
Employment and Labour
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Department of
Employment and Labour



@deptoflabour



employmentandlabour

A NATION
THAT WORKS FOR ALL



placements and achieving 166% of target. Limpopo achieved 234%, Gauteng 220%, Free State 183%, Northern Cape 172%, Mpumalanga 155%, and North West 155%.

The Department further provided 357 843 registered work-seekers with employment counselling services, representing 133% achievement against target, while also conducting 11 job and career fairs, exceeding the planned nine events.

Minister Meth said; "The performance reported during our Minister's In-Year Monitoring process demonstrates that the Department of Employment and Labour is making a meaningful impact in the lives of South Africans. Through the Employment Services of South Africa platform, we have surpassed all our targets for work-seeker registrations, employment opportunities and job placements. The fact that every province exceeded its registration targets, while provinces such as Gauteng, Free State, Limpopo and North West recorded exceptional achievements in employment opportunities, confirms that our interventions are yielding positive results."

"I wish to congratulate all provincial offices, labour centres and officials who have worked tirelessly to ensure that unemployed South Africans are connected to opportunities. These achievements bring us closer to our vision of creating pathways into employment, supporting inclusive economic growth and restoring hope to millions of job-seekers."

Minister Meth also applauded the performance of the Inspection and Enforcement Services (IES) Branch, which achieved all four of its annual targets. During the reporting period, the branch conducted 309 659 workplace inspections, exceeding the target of 298 104 inspections. In addition, 99% of non-compliant employers were served with notices within the prescribed 14 days, while 85% of referred cases were settled or referred for prosecution within 30 working days, significantly exceeding the target of 65%.

The branch also conducted 26 high-impact blitz inspection campaigns across sectors such as construction, hospitality, wholesale and retail, contributing to improved compliance with labour legislation and strengthening worker protections.

The Minister further welcomed the performance of the Labour Policy and Industrial Relations (LP&IR) Branch, which achieved 100% of its annual targets. Notable achievements included the successful review and publication of the National Minimum Wage, publication of Employment Equity reports and public registers, production of labour market research reports, and the processing of 100% of labour organisation registration applications within prescribed timelines.

Minister Meth encouraged the Department to continue with its commitment to building on these achievements throughout and intensifying efforts to create employment opportunities, protect workers' rights and improve labour market outcomes across South Africa.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Teboho Thejane
Departmental Spokesperson
082 697 0694/ teboho.thejane@labour.gov.za

  Department of Employment and Labour |  @deptoflabour |  employmentandlabour



employment & labour

Department:
Employment and Labour
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

A **NATION** THAT **WORKS** FOR ALL



-ENDS-

Issued by: Department of Employment and Labour



employment & labour

Department:
Employment and Labour
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

A **NATION** 
THAT **WORKS** 
FOR ALL

