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EPWP PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL WEEK ON SOCIAL PROTECTION BY STAFF REPORTER

Article by Lesego Moretwe

The senior management of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) within the Department of Public Works (DPW), Deputy Director General, Mr Stanley Henderson and Acting Chief Director: Sustainable Livelihoods, Convergence and Compliance, Ms Lindiwe Nkuna embarked on an official visit to Mexico and represented the DPW at an International week on Social Protection hosted by Mexico at its capital Mexico City from the 01-05th October 2018.

The International Week was hosted under the theme “*leaving no one behind*” and it was organised by the Mexican Ministry of Social Development (SEDESOL) and the German Development Cooperation as implemented by GIZ on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Other delegates who attended this session were the global partners of the Global Alliances for Social Protection and professionals from Asia, Africa and Latin America ministries who are implementing related social protection programmes.

This session was an interactive and a learning platform for delegates to share experiences and learn from each other on how best to implement the Public Employment Programmes and significantly contribute towards poverty alleviation in their respective countries.

The first two days of the “week” focused on the implementation of the

International Social Protection Programmes while the agenda for the last three days included a field trip to showcase the implementation of social protection programmes in Mexico and the dialogues on social protection policies and programmes.

During the closing session, Ms Nkuna was afforded an opportunity to share the South African delegation experience from participating in the week and outline the plan which will benefit the EPWP.

In her remarks, Ms Nkuna highlighted that the EPWP is positioned to contribute to government's goals of alleviating poverty, developing local communities, providing work opportunities and enhancing social protection. She further mentioned that currently, the vast majority of the unemployed have no access to social protection and that the EPWP as a Public Employment Programme (PEP) play an important role in reducing this gap. “Participating in this event was a great opportunity for the EPWP to learn from other countries on how they address the challenges related to poverty of which the biggest facing South Africa is income poverty.

We hope that from all the lessons we learnt here in Mexico, we will be able to take them back home to share with our colleagues in order to strengthen the role of Public Employment Programmes towards the Social Protection agenda”. Ms Nkuna concluded.

Upcoming events

- The Eastern Cape Provincial government will host the Expanded Public Works Programme Kamoso awards on 20 October 2018 in East London
- The EPWP Learning Programme will take place in Worcester, Cape Town from 22 to 26 October 2018

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EPWP COOPERATIVE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Article & picture by Emmanuel Jiyane



IG Segwahleng Stone Crushing project is a registered Cooperative which was established in 2004 and is located in Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality in Ga-Masemola, Limpopo. This project has nine (9) Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants and was established in a response to poverty and the high unemployment rate within the community.

On a daily basis, the participants collect stones from the nearby mountain with wheel barrows and push them into a crusher

machine for processing into different sizes of 24mm, 19mm and 10mm including a crusher dust. The concrete is then sold to the local community members.

These participants receive a monthly wage from Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality funded through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG).

The community benefit from this cooperative as they buy concrete at a low price, at a scale of a wheel barrow and ranging from the size of the concrete (R65.00 for 24mm, 23 crusher R45.00 and crusher dust is R35.00).

The milestones and impact of the Project

- The cooperative managed to purchase the stone crushing machine through incentive grant
- The participants are receiving monthly wage from the Municipality
- The cooperative monthly profit range from R4000 to R9000.