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EPWP SUMMIT RESOLVES TO PRIORITISE YOUTH AND WOMEN FOCUSED PROGRAMMES

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Gauteng and Dr Michael Samson of the International Labour organisation (ILO).

In his closing remarks, the Deputy Minister of Public Works Mr Jeremy Cronin said the expansion of youth projects was a solution to the challenge of drawing more young people into the EPWP. "We have noted that coming up and expanding innovative programmes such as Mass Sport Participation programmes, School Assistant Programmes and other such programmes is vital in getting more young people to participate in the EPWP." Deputy Minister Cronin added that training was also vital to ensure that young people are drawn into the EPWP.

The following are some of the EPWP 6th Summit resolutions as adopted by the delegates:

- Public bodies need to customise and adopt the approved recruitment guidelines to ensure that fair and transparent processes are followed in the recruitment of EPWP participants.
- The Summit resolves that in the pursuance of EPWP objectives, coordinating departments and public bodies shall establish partnerships with state and non-state actors including the private sector taking into consideration commitments made at the Jobs Summit 2018.
- The Summit notes progress made in developing a national EPWP policy and resolves that it should be finalised by 30 November 2019.
- The Summit notes the lack of full compliance by public bodies to the Ministerial Determination on their EPWP projects and resolves that all Public Bodies must adopt EPWP Standard Operating Procedures in this regard
- The National Department of Public Works and all lead sector departments will continue to liaise with relevant stakeholders to source additional funding for training and ensure that quality training is provided to EPWP participants, in-line with EPWP sector training strategies.

Upcoming events

- Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) training will take place on 19-23 November 2018 at Dennilton Kgobokwane Community Hall in Limpopo
- EPWP Learning Programme will take place on 19-23 November 2018 in Pietermaritzburg, Kwa Zulu Natal
- On 24 November 2018, the Public Employment Programme-Inter-Ministerial Committee (PEP-IMC) will hand-over a vehicle to Nomxabiso VEP project, which is a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) within the community of Whittlesea in the Eastern Cape.
- Graduation ceremony of participants who were trained in Landscaping and Mixed Farming will take place in Cala Municipality in the Eastern Cape on 27 November 2018.

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The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Bi-Annual Summit which ended on 14 November 2018 has resolved to prioritise and expand the provision of youth and women focused programmes.

The EPWP implementing public bodies across all spheres of government who attended the two-day EPWP 6th Summit at Saint Georges Hotel in Pretoria committed themselves to working harder, efficiently and effectively to come up with programmes that will attract young people and women into the EPWP. The Summit was held under the theme: *The Past, Present and the Future*.

In his opening message to the summit, Minister of Public Works TW Nxesi urged the delegates to advance the Public Employment Programmes (PEPs) ideas and best practices as well as reflecting on how to best implement the Programmes. The Minister has also indicated that in preparation to ushering EPWP Phase 4 in 2019, consultations with the relevant stakeholders were already underway and emphasised that the focus of the recruitment of the participants should be more on women and youth.

Among the dignitaries who attended the summit were MEC for Public Works in the Eastern Cape, Ms Pemmy Majodina, MEC Jacob Mamabolo for Infrastructure Development Department in

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS HOST AN EXIT WORKSHOP FOR NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE (NYS) PARTICIPANTS IN THE NORTHERN CAPE

Article & picture by Maanea Maselesele

A total number of 24 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants who have been trained under the National Youth Services (NYS) in the Northern Cape were handed over competency certificates during an exit workshop that was held on 17 October 2018 at the Nomzwakazi Hall in De Aar.

Delivering her opening address, the Councillor for Ward 3 in Emthanjeni Local Municipality Ms Nontobeko Nkontwana encouraged the participants to start their own small businesses. "I wish to encourage you to use the skills that you have gained from this Programme to become entrepreneurs so that you can create jobs for other young people in our communities," she said.

The training started on 22 February until 04 October 2018 and the participants were trained in carpentry, tiling and painting. The service provider for training of these participants was Pumakisi trading and its Project Manager Mr Max Makhoro, commended the participants for being dedicated and committed towards completing the training.

At the end of the ceremony, each participant received a tools box which contain all the tools that can assist them (participants) to start earning an income by doing work in their communities.

One of the participants, Mr Thembinkosi Kowa, thanked the government for providing them with an opportunity to participate in the NYS. He further pleaded with the Department to assist them to start their own businesses.

The EPWP Enterprise Development Unit committed to assist participants to start their own cooperatives. The Manager for EPWP Enterprise Development Unit in the Northern Cape Ms Nomazulu Sibanda encouraged the graduates come up with innovative ideas to contribute to the development of their communities. "Do research on scarce skill within your area and start your own businesses," Ms Sibanda added.