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EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME (EPWP) CHANGES LIVES FOR THE BETTER

Article by Emmanuel Jiyane and Lesley Nthangeni

Picture by Emmanuel Jiyane



Picture for Article 2



The Department of Public Works and the Department of Culture Sports and Recreation through Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) marked an exit of EPWP participants from the Programme during a graduation ceremony that was held in White River, near Nelspruit in Mpumalanga on 19 February 2019.

A total of 35 participants were trained on Environmental Practice Skills Programme (NQF LEVEL 2) which is accredited by the Local Government Sector Education and Training Authority (LGSETA).

The graduates were mainly the youth from Enhlanzeni, Gert Sibande and Nkangala Region in Mpumalanga. They were participating in My Village My Art project which is focused on creative arts such as visual arts, sewing (fashion and design) beadwork, leatherwork, woodcarving, film and media, mosaic and recycling.

After participating in My Village My Art- EPWP project, Vincent Chawuke who is residing in Matsulu near Nelspruit, has managed to establish a Radio Station in Matsulu village called Ekasi FM with the slogan "Livi Lomphakatsi". "Participating in an EPWP project has opened my eyes, today I see the world in a different vision".

Mr Chawuke identified a gap in the community he lives in because there was no community radio station to inform and educate the community about the current issues and developments in the community through multilingual languages such as Zulu, Ndebele, Swati, English and other official languages.

Through this initiative, Mr Chawuke created 26 employment opportunities to mostly young people who work as Receptionists, News readers, cleaners, radio DJs etc. He added that the radio station has created an impact by sending 15 young people to tertiary institutions.

"In 5 years' time I want to see this radio station as the voice of the community and leading in the community media industry. I would also want to start a newspaper and to create more opportunities to the unemployed youth and change others' lives as the EPWP has changed mine" he said. On the other hand, Chawuke is doing paper recycling and making money out of it.

"I have also taught other people on how to make money out of waste"

Upcoming events

Bulletin issued by
Communications & Marketing

EPWP PARTICIPATE IN FIGHTING CRIME IN THE NORTH WEST

Article & picture by Emmanuel Jiyane

The Department of Public Works (DPW) in partnership with the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management in the North West province, have appointed a total of 60 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants to assist the local police in the fight against crime in Mmabatho. The participants were appointed into the Programme in July 2018 and their duties include doing community patrols, reporting suspicious activities to the police as well as assisting during community Imbizos in the area.

The aim of this project was to involve community members in the fight against crime in the area and some of the achievements that the participants have made include the identification and recovery of stolen municipal dustbins in the neighbouring villages.

The participants have attended training on community patrolling, which was credited by Safety and Security Sector Education and Training Authority (SASSETA).

One of the participants, Ms Alettah Sedumpane (47), has 4 children and resides in Mocoseng village in the Mmabatho. She said life was hard before she joined the Programme.

"I was struggling to pay for my children school transport fees but through the EPWP, I can now manage to pay those transport costs. I also love my work in the project because I get to contribute to the safety of my community. The feedback that we get from the police is also positive as it indicates that we (EPWP participants) have contributed towards reducing crime in the area."

Ms Sedupane encouraged unemployed community members to take advantage of participating in EPWP projects when they become available. "Unemployed people, especially youth, should join these kind of programmes so that they can acquire skills and stand a good chance to enter the labour market."



EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME