

20 May 2019



## EPWP Bi-Weekly Bulletin

**issue: 21**

### Upcoming events

Vodacom/ Non State Sector Graduation Ceremony in Witbank, Mpumalanga-17 May 2019

Agriculture Youth Enterprise Development Induction Programme at Reimbader, Vhembe, Limpopo-17 May 2019

Agriculture Youth Enterprise Development Induction Programme at Matlekereng, Sekhukhune, Limpopo-22 May 2019

## EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS ARE ASSISTING IN IMPROVING COMMUNITY ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Article & picture by Kgomotso Mathuloe



South Africa experienced incessant rainfall conditions during the week of 22 April 2019 affecting mainly KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and some areas in the Free State Province. The impact of the rainfall conditions range from deaths (standing at 83 for the three provinces) infrastructure damages as well as injuries and loss of personal belongings. Since the outbreak of the incidents, government has been hard at work to ensure that humanitarian and service needs of the affected people and communities are addressed.

To this effect, the Minister of Public Works Mr T.W Nxesi, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula; the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), Dr Zweli Mkhize visited some areas in the Eastern Cape on 06 May 2019 to assess the damages caused to a number of bridges by the recent flooding and mudslides.

The Inter-Ministerial visit was also intended to view Pedestrian bridges which were constructed as temporary measure to assist the

communities to access essential services such as schools, clinics, South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) pay points as well as voting stations.

A total of seventeen (17) bridges are being constructed in areas that require emergency intervention in the Eastern Cape Province. Currently, six (6) temporary pedestrian bridges have already been completed. In some areas, the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) indicated that due to the terrain and the fact that some rivers have a wider gap, the temporary structures will not be possible and in such cases, it was recommended that permanent structures be the only solution.

Addressing the media after the visit, Minister Nxesi alluded that there is a need to continue with the construction of the community bridge project and therefore the Department of Public Works will liaise with the National Treasury to get more funding for its implementation.

According to SANDF, various departments will urgently begin with planning and costing processes to build permanent bridges that would also accommodate vehicles. After the permanent structures are built, the temporary bridges will be dismantled.

Speaking on site, the Mayor of Mbizana Local Municipality, Cllr Faku indicated that Mbizana as the largest municipality in the district with 31 wards, has been the most affected with nineteen (19) of its bridges destroyed by floods. She expressed appreciation for the work done by the Inter-Ministerial Committee in assisting the people of Mbizana.

The Deputy Director-General of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), Mr Stanley Henderson said that the EPWP will continue to provide technical support for the implementation of the bridge project and ensure that the communities have easy access to their amenities.

*Pedestrian Bridge in Mbizana, Eastern Cape*



*EPWP Participants sharing information with tourists*



Bulletin issued by  
**Communications & Marketing**

## MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HAS APPOINTED 490 EPWP PARTICIPANTS TO ASSIST POLICE WITH SAFETY OF TOURISTS

Article by Masego Maselwanyane

The Mpumalanga Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison has appointed a total of 490 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants to assist the police with the safety of tourists who visit the province. A total budget of R13 million has been allocated to this project for 2018/19 financial year.

The participants – EPWP Tourism Safety Monitors – are placed at various tourism sites throughout the province where they work 16 days a month and receive R140 daily wage.

The participants are deployed with the help of the South African Police Service (SAPS) at various strategic tourist destinations, police stations and at the shopping malls to deter and address any possible criminal elements that might negatively affect both tourists and the community at large.

Participants in this project are directly linked to police stations and have police officials that they report to. The project activities include:

- Provision of safety to tourists visiting various tourism sites
- Distribution of safety tips to tourists

- Contribution to reduction of crime
- Contribution to the increased number of tourists
- Enhancement of tourism safety through visibility at tourist destinations
- Distribution of safety tips booklets and brochures or any necessary and relevant information in any form to tourists and communities.
- Participation in road blocks with South African Police Services.
- Provision of information and give directions to tourists upon request.

The successful implementation of this project has seen an increase in the number of tourists who visit the province as well as the significant decrease in the number of muggings at tourism sites.

Role-players who are participating in the implementation of this project include, the Department of Public Works, the SAPS, Mpumalanga Tourism & Parks Agency, Business Against Crime and Community Policing Forums/Community Safety Forum.



**EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME**