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## EPWP Bi-Weekly Bulletin

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### Upcoming events

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure will on (05 to 06 February 2020) host graduation ceremony of National Youth Service participants in the Eastern Cape.

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure together the National Economic Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) will on (06 February to 07 February 2020) visit Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) projects in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga.



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## YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO BE PLACED AT THE CORE OF EPWP PROJECTS

Article by Ofentse Letswalo, pictures by Karen Mthombeni

In a bid to provide more economic opportunities to the Youth and Persons with Disabilities (PwD), the government plans to scale-up the participation of these two groups in the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). The EPWP is one of Government's medium to long term strategies to reduce unemployment and alleviate poverty through the creation of work opportunities using labour-intensive methods.

With a target of creating 5 million EPWP work opportunities by 2024, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) has set a target of 55% allocation of these opportunities to the Youth while 2% of them are to be taken up by PwD. Since the start of the current financial year (2019/20) government has created a total of 742 969 EPWP work opportunities for poor and unemployed South Africans – close to 40% of these opportunities have been taken up by the Youth, while 1.18% were taken-up by the PwD.

The DPWI, as a lead coordinator of the EPWP, is working with public bodies that are implementing the Programme to come up with resolutions to increase the participation of Youth and PwD in EPWP projects. At the EPWP Colloquium that was held at Saint George Hotel and Conference Centre recently, stakeholders came up with the following recommendations to solve the challenge of not meeting targets for designated groups:

#### EPWP Programme Design

- All EPWP projects and programme should include the Youth and PwD from the conceptual and design stage.
- Design and implement training programmes for PwD/Youth
- Strengthen participation of Entrepreneurship through the EPWP Enterprise Development
- Re-engineer the Programme to accommodate (Fourth industrial revolution) and career-pathing.

#### Partnership

- Strengthen partnerships with disability organizations, SETAs, TVET Colleges/Institutions of Higher learning and private sector to ensure placement after training.

#### Mainstreaming

- All departments should strengthen units dealing with PwD and have databases of PwD or organisations. Implement Disability training for Project/ Programme Implementers/ Coordinators.

#### Monitoring and Evaluation

- Profiling of communities to establish types of disabilities prevalent in areas where projects are to be implemented for inclusion in the design of a project.
- Tracking System to monitor Youth Participants placement and training acquired.

The two days Colloquium was opened by the Deputy Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Ms Noxolo Kiviet who said that EPWP should collaborate with the private sector and other partners to ensure that the Participants are exposed to work and provided with skills.

She also encouraged Programme Implementers to work out strategies to improve participation of the youth and PwD.

Mr Lubabalo Mbeki, a member of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, thanked the government for providing persons with disabilities with opportunities in the EPWP. "We are pleased that you (Department) have invited us – persons with disabilities – to give advice on what should be done to attract persons with disabilities into the EPWP."

## EPWP PROJECT PROVIDES AGRICULTURAL TRAINING TO COMMUNITIES IN MPUMALANGA

Article & pictures by Karen Mthombeni

IG Nursery and Vegetable Garden Assistants is a project based in Elukwatini and Amsterdam Villages under Gert Sibande District Municipality in Mpumalanga. The project is implemented in partnership with the provincial department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs to provide locals with vital agricultural skills. The participants will receive National Certificate in Plant Production.

This skills training project is at NQF level 2 and is accredited by the Agriculture Sector and Training Authority of South Africa (AGRISETA). The 12 days training programme will cover the following Unit Standards:

- Understanding basic soil fertility and plant nutrition
- Pests, diseases and weeds control on all crops
- Marketing principles in agriculture

The EPWP Training Unit (in Mpumalanga Regional Office of Department of Public Works and Infrastructure) provides the required support to the Training Provider and ensures training is executed according to the set standard. The project uses environment friendly (organic) ways of producing vegetables. The training will assist participants to acquire

better strategies of marketing their produce as well as knowledge of how to access mainstream agriculture sector.

The Assistant Director: EPWP Training, Mr. Lesley Nthangeni, said "This training will provide valuable skills to the participants and assist them to produce their vegetables in an environmentally friendly and economically viable manner".

This Plant Production training will also assist the participants with the following:

- Provide skills to produce vegetables for personal consumption or selling
- Marketing strategies to sell their produce
- Furthering their education in Plant Production and increase employability

Ms. Precious Dlodlu, one of the participants, thanked the EPWP for the opportunity and the new skills she's obtained from the project.

## EPWP Participants trained in Plant Production in Northern Cape

Article by Maanea Maselesele

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure in partnership with Department Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs in Kimberley trained a total number of 20 participants in plant production.

The training is offered at NQF Level 2. Participants were drawn from Sol Plaatje Municipality's projects that are based in Galeshewe and Roodepan.

The training was provided by Agriroots Training and the following modules were covered:

- Basic soil fertility
- Pest control
- Operate irrigation
- Harvest agricultural crops