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Expanded Public Works branch hosted a workshop to develop its Policy framework

Article by Kgomotso Mathuloe

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) hosted a one day Policy Workshop on 20th August 2018 at CSIR International Convention Centre in Pretoria. The purpose of the workshop was to kick-start the process of developing the EPWP overarching Policy which is aimed amongst others to address the following gaps that have been identified in the programme:

- A firm mandate defining the powers and authority of public institutions coordinating and implementing EPWP
- Disjuncture amongst the different spheres of governments in terms of the coordination and reporting functions
- Difficulty to enforce compliance in absence of policy that sets out the norms and values for stakeholders

Development of the Policy will be run in phases, the first phase which has already started is expected to be completed in September 2018 while the second phase will be completed in December 2018. A task team led by Sustainable Livelihood, Convergence and Compliance Chief Directorate and the International Labour Organization (ILO) has been formed to ensure that the EPWP Policy development process become a success. The task team will also ensure that there is intensive consultation with various stakeholders and subsequent to that, the Policy document will be presented to Cabinet for approval.

EPWP trained over 900 emerging contractors

Article by Lesego Moretlwe

The two-day Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Vuk'uphile Stakeholder workshop commenced on 23-24 August 2018 at Destiny Hotel and Conference Centre in Kempton Park, Gauteng.

Speaking during the two days workshop, the Deputy Minister of Public Works, Mr Jeremy Cronin emphasised the necessity of fair recruitment of participants into the EPWP and the role played by the EPWP through Vuk'uphile Programme which has made a significant contribution in the construction industry by providing construction training to more than 900 emerging contractors throughout the country since 2004.

"Vuk'uphile Learnership Programme is an intervention by government to ensure the transformation of the construction industry which is highly concentrated and dominated by big companies. Women and youth benefit extensively from this programme and as a result, establish their own businesses. It is therefore important for the public bodies to adhere to the recently launched EPWP Recruitment Guidelines which stand for fair, transparent and equitable recruitment of participants into the Programme" said Deputy Minister Jeremy Cronin.

The Vuk'uphile contractors have thus far completed over 1900 infrastructure projects country wide. These projects include construction of low-volume roads, pavements/sidewalks, school buildings, water pipelines etc. The value of assets that have been constructed through the Programme is estimated at R2.6 billion with over 63 000 number of EPWP work opportunities created through this Programme.

The aim of the two-day seminar is to assess the progress in the implementation of the Vuk'uphile Learnership Programme since its inception, explore ways to expand the participation of various public bodies in the Programme, assess the impact of the skills development among women contractors, and find solutions to the challenges that are plaguing the Programme.

This developmental programme is intended to develop emerging contractors into fully-fledged contractors at National Qualification Framework (NQF) level 2 and supervisors at NQF level 4. The seminar was attended by the Deputy Minister of Cooperative Government and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) Mr Andries Nel as well as other senior government officials from all spheres of government.

Expanded Public Works Programme embarked on provincial roadshows to educate stakeholders about new Recruitment Guidelines

Article by Micheal Mokoena

The Department of Public Works has embarked on provincial roadshows to communicate and popularize the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Recruitment Guidelines. On Thursday, 23 August 2018, the acting Chief Director for EPWP Sustainable Livelihood, Convergence and Compliance, Ms Lindiwe Nkuna presented the EPWP Recruitment Guidelines to various Mayors, Municipal Councillors and senior municipal and provincial government officials at a meeting held at the Bela Bela Lodge in Limpopo. Ms Nkuna explained that it was vital for public bodies that are implementing the EPWP to recruit participants in a manner that is fair, transparent, ethical and accountable. "It is important to note that the EPWP is a government programme that alleviate poverty through the creation of work opportunities for the poor and the unemployed. Poverty knows no colour, gender nor political affiliation. It is therefore vital that people are recruited into the EPWP in a fair, transparent, ethical, equitable and accountable manner. These guidelines will ensure that poor and unemployed people benefit from the Programme," Ms Nkuna stated.

The senior government officials (Mayors, Councillors and senior administrators in the Province) thanked the DPW for sharing the recruitment guidelines with the province. "It is important that the recruitment of participants in the EPWP is fair and transparent so that all our people will have a fair opportunity to participate and benefit from the Programme. To me the EPWP Recruitment Guidelines are about placing our people first in the work we do on EPWP," councillor Phahlana Masimula of ward 19 Ellias Motswaledi Local Municipality in the Sekhukhune District said.

Some of the government entities that made presentations at the meeting included the Polokwane Metropolitan Municipality, the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), and Independent Development Trust (IDT). The meeting in Bela Bela was preceded by a similar meeting that was led by the Deputy Director General (DDG) of the EPWP, Mr Stanley Henderson in Cape Town on 22 August 2018.

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