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## EPWP Bi-Weekly Bulletin

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

**The Deputy Minister of Public Works Jeremy Cronin will officiate the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) graduation ceremony in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga**

Article by Maanea Maselesele

The Public Works Deputy Minister will officiate the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) graduation ceremony to hand over certificates of competence to 305 learners who completed the Culture Site Guide Course, National Qualification Framework (NQF) level 4 as part of the Mpumalanga Tourism Safety Monitors (TSM) programme. The event will be held at Ehlanzeni District Municipal in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga on the 19th September 2018.

Mpumalanga is one of South Africa's favourite holiday destinations, it was therefore one of the province's priority to ensure a safe and conducive environment for local and international visitors to the province. The Culture Site Guide course is accredited by the Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport Sector Education and Training Authority (CATHSETA) and was funded by EPWP National Skills funds (NSF). This EPWP Social Sector project is implemented in partnership with different stakeholders including Mpumalanga Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison (DCSSL), Ehlanzeni District Municipality, which commenced from the 19th of June 2017 and completed on the 27th of October 2017.

The role of the safety monitors are as follows:

- To provide information to tourists visiting various heritage sites around Mpumalanga;
- Distribution of Safety tips to tourist;
- Patrol officers work with South African Police Services (SAPS) to ensure maximum safety to tourists.

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### EPWP VUK'UPHILE LEARNERHIP PROGRAMME TESTIMONY

Article by Lesego Moretlwe

Portia Mathebula participated in a Vuk'ukuphile Learnership Contractor Development Programme Training in 2014 until she completed the training in January 2017 as a learner Supervisor based in the Pretoria, Gauteng. Training entailed the classroom (theoretical training) and field/site practical training.

During training she studied the following modules:

- Supervision of construction processes using labour intensive methods
- Leading and supervising construction teams,
- Health and Safety in construction,
- Repairing and maintaining structures using labour intensive methods

After completing the theoretical training “I started with my practical training doing routine maintenance projects on selected RISFSA Classes 5 & 6 provincial roads in the Pretoria Region (Winterveldt and Rooiwal). My classroom background helped me to apply the knowledge I gained practically, for example I was able to plan and organise work and to ensure all resources are available when needed and enforcing safety rules”.

“I did the projects reports according to the requirements of the LIC projects e.g. the reports entailed number of labourers employed,

gender ratio. I could read and understand the project drawings and specifications and be able to apply them, I was able to do routine road maintenance such as surface failure repairs, edge break repairs, repair and maintenance on inlet and outlet structures(prefabricated culverts),erection of road signs and road markings, grass cutting ,litter picking and removal of debris. I was also able to keep the records of production and taking measurements of the work for reporting billing purposes”.

During the training programme she received a stipend of R5000 every month and there was a saving monitored by mentors for the period of training. At the end of the training programme the saving was divided between the learner contractor and learner supervisor.

“I received my 30% share of the savings. The savings helped me a lot because I used it to fund my business”.

Ms Mathebula exited the programme in February 2017 and received a Level 4 certificate and reference letter from the Department of Roads and Transport. “I have my own company and all the necessary documentation e.g. CK document, COID, Tax clearance BBBEE Affidavit, I registered with CSD and CIDB ,my company have the following CIDB Grades : 1GB and 2CE”.

Today Ms Mathebula has an advantage to get a formal job or to be a successful entrepreneur because of training opportunity in the EPWP.

### Are Semeleleng Primary Cooperative is contributing to the development of a mall town in Northern Cape

Article by Michael Mokoena

A group of twelve (12) Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) women participants in Warrenton in the Northern Cape have established a clothing manufacturing cooperative which is providing low cost clothing to the community and contributing to the development of this small town. This cooperative is called Are Semeleleng Primary Cooperative, supported and funded by the Northern Cape Department Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta).

“We recently received a contract from South African Social Security Agency (Sassa) to provide school uniform for poor children in various government schools in the Province,” said the Manager for the cooperative Ms Constance Magau.

The cooperative has also produced church uniform for one of the local churches in the area. "We also received a contract from the Department of Social Development to produce hats for the local young people who participated in the Province's Youth Camp" the manager of the cooperative Ms Constance Magau said.

She added that the work they are doing through the cooperative is contributing to the development of local youth. “The cooperative is providing training to a few young people in the area,” she said.

The Department of Public Works EPWP Enterprise Development Official in the Northern Cape, Ms Nomazulu Sibanda said the Department assisted in the development of the enterprise aspect of the cooperative.

Stakeholders that support the cooperative include the Northern Cape Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, South African Social Security Agency (Sassa) Northern Cape, Magareng Local Municipality, Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda) Northern Cape.

The Northern Cape office of Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda) is also assisting the cooperative. “We provided the women with training in basic business management which is helping them in the management of the business. We are also monitoring the financial performance and we are pleased with what we are seeing so far,” Seda's Matsidi Malebatso said.

The National Development Agency (NDA) is also a partner in the work that the cooperative is doing. “We assisted the cooperative with new sewing machines and we also provided them with training on the usage of these particular machines,” the NDA's Masabata Taole said.