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## EPWP Bi-Weekly Bulletin

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# EPWP SKILLS PLAN- EMPOWERMENT TO PARTICIPANTS AND COMMUNITIES

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**Pictures by: Maanea Maselesele and Thokozani Ngema**

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) hosted the graduation ceremony of ninety nine (99) EPWP participants on 15 August 2019 at Depot Hall in Taung, North-West where they were awarded Skills Programme certificates. These participants have successfully completed 30% theoretical training and 70% practical training in the skills programme named Thogomelo Psychosocial support for community caregivers.

The training was implemented under the auspices of the EPWP, accredited by Health and Welfare Sector Education Training Authority (HWSETA) and the training provider thereof was Kgetho Training and Consulting institution under the directorship of Ms Martha Mosiane.

Speaking during the ceremony, Mayor of Greater Taung Local Municipality Cllr Nyoko Charles Motlhabane expressed his gratitude about the concerted efforts of the Department of Public Works & Infrastructure and the stakeholders who made a positive contribution to the development and empowerment of the participants through the training provided and work opportunities offered through the EPWP.

He encouraged the participants to do more as the DPWI has provided the foundation for their career development, "this is the beginning and every journey has the beginning, the future lies upon you, and I believe that you have a potential to do more and better", he concluded.

The participants were all from Venterdorp, Swartruggens and Taung areas in the North West Province and working in the following EPWP projects: Tsayaboswa Non-Profit Organisation (NPO), Loggabeng Disability Centre, Ventersdorp Community Work Programme (CWP) and Kgetlengrivier CWP.

The following are some of the activities/learning areas undertaken during the Skills Programme

- Methods of educating and transferring knowledge on Care and Support
- Conducting community education on the issues of Care and Support
- Identification of possible support base of people with chronic diseases as well as problem areas within the communities
- Identification of possible support base for Youth to unleash their potential and abilities

EPWP Senior Manager in North West, Ms Xoliswa Letsapa congratulated the participants for their hardwork and commitment displayed for the duration of the training. She further encouraged the participants to remain focused in their personal development and continue to make a difference in the lives of those in need of their social care services.

One of the participants, Ms Goitseman Khai said the work that she is doing is very fulfilling to her, as she is providing social care services to the needy and vulnerable communities which include orphans, child headed families and also provide educational support to the learners by assisting them with the home-works.

Among the guests who attended the event and gave messages of support were Ms Martha Mosiane of Kgetho Training and Consulting, Mr Koketso Tsatsi of Tlotlang Thuto Training Institute, representative from Community Work Programme Ms Fortunate Makhubo and Mr Richard Molefe who represented HWSETA.



## Upcoming events

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure's EPWP Branch will on 04 September 2019 host a graduation ceremony for the EPWP Tourism Safety Monitors in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga.

The EPWP Branch will host the Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) Training Workshop from 04-05 September 2019 at Khayelisha Business Training Centre in Cape Town, Western Cape.

Limpopo Provincial Government will on 06 September 2019 launch the EPWP Phase IV in Makhado.



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## DPWI CELEBRATES WOMEN IN EPWP

**Article & pictures by Emmanuel Jiyane**



As part of the 2019 Women's Month celebrations, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) has assisted a female owned cooperative to market their products at an exhibition that was hosted by the Northern Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Nocci) in Kimberley in the Northern Cape. The exhibition was held on 01-03 August 2019, at Mittah Seperepere Convention Centre in Kimberley, Northern Cape.

The Thalithakumi Primary Cooperative was established in 2018 and it is an EPWP supported cooperative that is located in Olifantshoek, in the Northern Cape. It produces jam spreads and atchar. The seven (7)

women who own this cooperative sell their food produce (jam spreads and atchar) to community members in the Olifantshoek.

The Nocci exhibition provided the cooperative with a platform to network and market itself to other businesses and investors in the province.

One of the owners of the cooperative – Ms Patricia Motsoare (32) – thanked the Department for assisting them to participate in the exhibition. "This exhibition has given us an opportunity to identify new markets where we can sell our products".

She also thanked the government for the opportunity to be part of the EPWP.

In her Women's Month message, Ms Motsoare appealed to women in the EPWP to use the Programme to lift themselves out of poverty. The cooperative, which falls under the EPWP Non-State sector, is funded through the Independent Development Trust (IDT).

The DPWI through its EPWP Enterprise Development Unit, has assisted the cooperative with company registration processes, South African Revenue Services (SARS) compliance issues and also arranged a technical training that is accredited by the Culture, Art, Tourism, Hospitality, and Sport Sector Education and Training Authority (CATHSSETA).