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GOVERNMENT PRIORITIZES THE SAFETY OF TOURISTS THROUGH THE EPWP

Article by Michael Mokoena
Pictures by Emmanuel Jiyane



Upcoming events

EPWP Learning Programme Workshop at the
Holiday Inn Express-Sunnyside in Pretoria,
Gauteng from 16-20 September 2019

EPWP Enterprise Development Unit Start and
Improve Your Business (SIYB) Training Workshop at
Centre Walk in Pretoria, Gauteng from the
17-20 September 2019

Official opening of a youth business centre in
Vosburg, Northern Cape on 27 September 2019

Graduation ceremony of EPWP participants who
were trained in Film and Video Technology, the
event will be held in Mpumalanga on the
27 September 2019

Graduation of EPWP Participants who were
trained in Financial Literacy, the event will be held
at Douglas, Northern Cape on the
30th September 2019



As the country wraps up the 2019 Tourism month (September) and prepares for the start of 2019 festive season, government is prioritizing the safety of tourists who visit the country's tourist attractions. The Mpumalanga provincial government and the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) embarked on a Tourism Safety Monitors initiative which is aimed at training community members to work with the police in keeping tourists safe in the province.

On 04 September 2019, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) together with the Mpumalanga Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison (DCSSL) and Mbombela Local Municipality hosted the handover of certificates to 305 EPWP participants who have completed a five month course in Culture Site Guide Skills Programme.

Delivering her keynote address at the ceremony, the Chief Director: EPWP Operations Ms Pearl Mugerwa hailed the work done by the participants in keeping tourists who visit the province safer. "With Mpumalanga's economy heavily reliant on tourism, your work of keeping our tourists safe contributes to the economic growth of this province," Ms Mugerwa said.

Ms Mugerwa urged the graduating participants to use the skills they have attained in the programme to execute their duties with high level of competence and pride.

About the training

The training programme is at NQF level 4 and is accredited by Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport Sector Education and Training Authority (CATHSSETA).

During training learners received theoretical and practical training. They were placed at different tourist attraction sites- identified by the Mpumalanga Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison (DCSSL)- for workplace training. Training was funded to the tune of R5, 5m by the Department of Higher Education and Training-through the National Skills funds (NSF).

The Skills Programme covered the following Unit Standards:

- Conduct a guided cultural experience
- Care for customers
- Conduct a tourist guiding activity
- Minimise and manage safety and emergency incidents
- Research and design: a guided experience at a prominent tourist site.

Participant's testimonials

One participant- Priscilla Thwala – said her work as a tourism safety monitor includes providing safety tips to tourists and reporting to the police suspicious looking incidents at tourist sites where she is located. One of the sites monitored by Ms Thwala is the Lebombo Boarder post in Komatipoort.

Another participant – Mr Jerry Mokoena – said the training equipped him with vital skills that assisted him to find work as a tour guide at one of the local tour operator.

"I have used the EPWP to skip the unemployment queue...I used the knowledge I gained in the Programme to get myself employed by one of the tour operators in the province," Mr Mokoena said.

LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT LAUNCH EPWP PHASE 4

Article & picture by Khanyisa Moagi

The Limpopo provincial government has launched the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Phase 4 on 06 September 2019 at Makhado Showgrounds in Makhado. The launch was led by the Acting Premier of Limpopo Mr Seaparo Sekoati.

Delivering his keynote address Premier Sekoati said a significant number of women, youth and people with disability will be recruited into the programme. He further condemned the ongoing problem of the abuse of women and children in the country and called upon men in the province to take a stand in protecting these two vulnerable groups.

The MEC for Limpopo Provincial Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), Ms Monica Mochadi also attended the

event. She stated that the province has set a target of creating 475,358 work opportunities for Phase 4 of the Programme. MEC Mochadi added that the EPWP should provide quality work projects that will leave a lasting legacy in the province.

The LDPWRI signed a statement committing all sector lead departments to lead the implementation of EPWP in the province. As the overall coordinator of the EPWP in the province, the Department (LDPWRI) will ensure that all public bodies including provincials Departments, District Municipalities, Local Municipalities and state-owned enterprises, participate in the implementation of the EPWP. The EPWP Protocol Agreements will also be signed by all public bodies in the province.

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