

20 October 2020



EPWP Bi-Weekly Bulletin

issue 41



EPWP HOSTED A WEBINAR FOCUSING ON RESKILLING AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Article by: Michael Mokoena
Pictures by ILO and Maanea Maselesele

In an endeavor to uphold its mandate of alleviating poverty through the provision of training and work opportunities, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is hosting a series of Webinars and engaging stakeholders on strategies to maximise the creation of work opportunities in the era of Covid-19 and the economic downturn.

The second EPWP Webinar was recently held under the theme "Re-skilling and Enterprise Development for PEPs in the era of Covid-19 and beyond". The discussions revolved around finding ways to drive employment and tackle poverty through the EPWP during and post Covid-19.

Two Speakers at the Webinar, Ms Liesel Eksteen, a Development Economist consultant and Mr Lungisani Dladla, Senior Manager in the EPWP Branch of DPWI, reflected on how some of the projects offered through EPWP can be redesigned to ensure participants are provided with skills required by the digitised new world of work.

Ms Eksteen said the EPWP should look at utilising both human and artificial intelligence (IA) in order to drive the development and upliftment of the nation in the post Covid-19 world. She said for the EPWP to increase work opportunities for South Africans post Covid-19, Government

must look at providing participants with a combination of skills such as emotional intelligence, the use of technology in performing tasks and advanced cognitive skills in preparing for the new digitised world of work.

Mr Dladla said that for EPWP to continue to deliver on its mandate of tackling poverty through creation of economic opportunities for the poor and unemployed, the Government may have to look at utilising the Programme to drive township entrepreneurship. He said Government will have to provide development finance and support to small businesses in the townships in order to create the much needed economic opportunities and jobs for the poor.

Inputs from the EPWP Webinars will inform Policy discussions on how to improve the implementation and coordination of the EPWP across all spheres of government.



Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) hosted National Youth Service exit workshop in Eastern Cape

Article by: Michael Mokoena
Pictures by: Nonhlanhla Ntuli-Mahlilikihla

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) continues to utilise the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) initiatives to contribute to youth skills development in the country.

The Department has recently hosted an exit workshops for EPWP participants who were trained through the National Youth Service (NYS) programme in the Eastern Cape. The NYS is a sub-programme of the EPWP Infrastructure Sector and its objective is to develop artisan skills among the youth.

According to DPWI's Assistant Director: National Youth Service, Ms Nonhlanhla Ntuli-Mahlilikihla, eighteen (18) participants who exited the Programme were from Kwaaiman (near Mqanduli town in the Eastern Cape) and were trained in various artisan skills such as plumbing and painting as well as other Built Environment skills.

"The exiting participants received a 12 months formal training which included onsite training where they worked on the refurbishment of Kwaaiman police station, Ms Ntuli-Mahlilikihla said. She added that for this training project, the DPWI partnered with Coega Development Cooperation.

The exit workshop was led by the EPWP Programme Manager in the Eastern Cape Mr Mziwabantu Ntese who congratulated the participants and wished them well in their future endeavors.

The workshop was also attended by the Councillor S. Mhlaba of Ward 27 at the King Sabata Dalindyebo Local Municipality who assisted with the recruitment of participants and local labour in the area of Kwaaiman in consultation with local traditional leaders.

The workshop was also attended by representatives from King Hints TVET College and the Department of Employment and Labour.

Comments from exiting participants:

The participants thanked the government for providing them with an opportunity in shaping their skills that they can use to uplift themselves out of poverty.

One participant, Ms Silivile Phamehlo said the plumbing skills that she received from the Programme will also afford her an opportunity to contribute to the development of her community as most of rural areas are in need of these skills.

Bulletin issued by
Communications & Marketing



EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME