



EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME PARTICIPANTS EXIT INTO CLEAR CAREER PATHWAYS

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The Deputy Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Honourable Bernice Swarts, has recently officiated the graduation ceremony of Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants who completed the 3-year Artisan Development Programme. During the ceremony, the Deputy Minister handed over the certificates to 47 learners who have successfully completed this training programme specialising in various artisan trades such as electrical, welding, plumbing, fitting and turning etc.

The ceremony was hosted at South West Gauteng Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College at Molapo Campus in Soweto- Johannesburg. These young people were recruited from Tshwane District Municipality, Ekurhuleni District Municipality, Johannesburg District Municipality and Sedibeng District Municipality in the Gauteng province.

Deputy Minister Swarts applauded the Agricultural Sector Education Training Authority (AgriSETA) and all relevant stakeholders for partnering with the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure and successfully training young people in this scarce and critical skills.

She said that through this kind of partnerships, EPWP made a positively impact on the lives of young people who once got work opportunities on the EPWP projects but now they have been afforded an opportunity of a lifelong learning which will significantly improve their standard of living with a recognised qualification and empower them to earn a regular income or even to start their own businesses and become employers themselves.

The EPWP Artisan Development Programme responds to the National Development Plan (NDP) where the country should produce 30 000 artisans per year by 2030. This training seeks to provide skills for participants to enter work-based training by acquiring knowledge and skills in a trade, thereby addressing the dilemma of critical skills shortage in the country and promote economic growth.

This training intervention is one of the EPWP National Youth Services Programme (NYS) exit strategies which offer clear pathways into the job market and entrepreneurship, thereby alleviating poverty and unemployment, promoting skills development and contributing to economic growth.

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