



Deputy Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Hon. Bernice Swarts handed over the paved road to the community of Upington in Northern Cape

Article by: Lesego Moretlwe

Pictures by: Maanea Maselesele and Lerato Mpiwa



The Deputy Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Hon. Bernice Swarts together with MEC Fufe Makatong of Roads and Public Works have handed over the completed Louisvaledweg Paved road to the community of Upington in Northern Cape during the service delivery Imbizo which was hosted on 15 March 2024. The 4, 9 million paving project was funded through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Integrated Grant for Provinces and created 60 work opportunities for the community during the construction phase.

In addition to the work opportunities created, this is also one of the Infrastructure service delivery milestone with direct impact to the community of Upington. “It is therefore my pleasure to state that the projects that we embarked on today serve as an indication that the DPWI together with its stakeholders are on a mission to work together under One Plan and in an integrated approach to enhance service delivery and provide communities

with quality basic needs and beneficial assets”, the Deputy Minister said.

The Deputy Minister also visited two other projects sites and participated in the following activities: Cleaning and Greening project in Rosedale and the Upington Labour Centre which is being refurbished by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure. The aim was to monitor and assess progress made towards its completion.

As part of this oversight visit, the Deputy Minister has engaged the community on matters of service delivery and provided interventions on issues raised.

The Deputy Minister was also joined by the Executive Mayor of ZF Mgcawu District Municipality, Cllr Basson and the Executive Mayor of Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality, Cllr Michael Segede.

Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, officiate the National Youth Service graduation in Khayelitsha, Cape Town

Article by: Lesego Moretlwe

Pictures by: Khanyisa Moagi and Brian Dlamini



The Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Hon. Sihle Zikalala officiated and commended 108 EPWP participants who graduated under the umbrella of the National Youth Service (NYS) as Carpenters and Community House Building trades within the Artisan Industry. Minister Zikalala awarded certificates of competence to the graduates during the ceremony which was held in Khayelitsha Township in Cape Town.

During his keynote address, Minister Zikalala outlined the importance of the EPWP as a government poverty alleviation initiative which provides training and work opportunities to the poor and unemployed South Africans. The Minister emphasised the significance of youth focused programmes such as the NYS in uplifting the socio-economic status of the individuals. He further indicated that the EPWP is contributing significantly towards service delivery, especially the infrastructure projects.

“The NYS represents an initiative to engage the youth of our country in strengthening service delivery, promoting nation-building, fostering social cohesion and to assist the youth gain the necessary occupational skills in order to be able to access sustainable livelihoods opportunities” Minister Zikalala indicated.

Out of 108 graduates who were awarded certificates, 47 of them participated in the Community House Building through the Parliamentary Villages at Laboria, Acacia and Pelican Park. This Community House Building encompasses multiple technical skills in the field of construction. In addition to that, a total of 61 learners/graduates qualified in carpentry. The total budget allocation for this training was over R3 million.

During the ceremony, different Institutions such as Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, Independent Development Trust, Sisters in Construction etc. have pledged to offer employment to 56 NYS graduates. “We are also pleased that the EPWP has achieved absorption of some of the participants in permanent positions within Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) inclusive of other Private Public Partnerships” Minister concluded.

This NYS programme was implemented by the DPWI Cape Town Regional Office in partnership with TVET Colleges in the Western Cape, the Independent Development Trust (IDT) and the South African Police Services (SAPS).

Participant Testimony

One of the participants, Mr Aloy Loyiso expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to have participated in the EPWP and acquired training and skills in Carpentry under the NYS programme. “Previously my family used to hire people for fixing certain things in the house, now with the skills that I has acquired, I do not have to spend money on hiring a person for fixing of door latches and cupboards as I am able to do all that. This training is a step closer for all the participants towards entering the workforce. “I think all of us (participants) should be more grateful because while on training we were paid a wage”, Loyiso concluded.



Civil Society Consultation Meeting – on the 68th Session of the Commission on the status of Women (CSW68), held at the Castle of Good Hope, WC

Article by Khanyisa Moagi and Mosima Ndlanzi
Pictures by: Ilitha Labantu Non Profit Organisation



Ilitha Labantu Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) together with UN-Women Multi Country Office and African Women Independent Forum (AWIF) convened a 3 days consultative meeting on the 68th Session of the Commission on the status of Women (CSW68). One of the NPOs supported by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure– Expanded Public Works Programme, Non-state Sector through the NPO Programme.

The Consultative meeting was in preparation for the Commission on the Status of Women session held in New-York from 09 to 23 March 2024, under the theme: “Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.”

The deliberations in the consultative meeting was held with the purpose of establishing a position for South Africa and Africa in preparation on the upcoming conference.

Ilitha Labantu’s mission is to strive to end violence and abuse against women and children in disadvantaged communities. They provide emotional support, practical advice, education and training for coping with and addressing violence against women and children. The services provided by the NPO include: face to face counselling, telephone counselling, support groups, family intervention and mediation, shelter, court support, food security programs, training and capacity building, and employment readiness programmes.

Further to the discussions had at the consultative meeting, the following topics were deliberated on:

1. Teenage Pregnancy – reduction of teenage pregnancy with the aim of alleviating poverty, while developing transformative programmes to capacitate the male counterparts and the role they can play to support teenage mothers.

- 2. Mental Health** – continue to create awareness about the effects and impact of mental health in communities and how the NPO will play a collective role in addressing mental health issues, amongst women, children, men and people with disabilities.
- 3. Gender Based Violence and Femicide** – alleviation of gender-based violence and Femicide through well-established accountability structures that will provide progress and impact of the programme.
- 4. Progress on the Beijing Declaration on Women** – Economic inclusion of women in the formal sector and improve access to credit for women. Participation of Women in Politics to ensure they provide accountability on the role they play towards the advancement of women.

Key recommendations and the position taken by the preparatory consultative meeting to the Commission on the Status of Women were:

- Localisation of sustainable development goal and adoption of programmes that enhance and prioritize specific women employment.
- Food security programmes in rural areas.
- Inclusion of women in the African Development Agenda through the support of government.
- Create safe spaces for women to trade and advocate for gender responsive planning, budgeting, monitoring, evaluation and audit processes and enforce mainstream programmes by government.
- Amplify and accelerate the implementation of effective policies to fight poverty by strengthening inclusive social protection systems to guarantee access to education, health and social security to reduce labour gaps for women in all their diversity, promotion strategies for labour inclusion and decent work.



Feedback on Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Community of Practice (COP)

Article by: Andiswa Qiqimana



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Community of Practice (COP) focus on thematic areas is essential to the Programme's strategic needs, incorporating issues arising from its implementation and stakeholder recommendations. The recent COP held on 23 February 2024 was centered on "Location Matters: Geospatial Insights in EPWP Monitoring". This session provided a comprehensive understanding of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) technology, showcasing its ability to enhance project location selection, resource allocation, and decision-making within the EPWP. Through case studies and best practices, participants gained insights into how GIS can optimise projects' efficiency, transparency, and community impact.

Mr. Gitesh Brijman, the Director of EPWP-GIS delivered a presentation on "EPWP GIS strategy and EPWP GIS special reports", highlighting spatial analysis's importance in addressing employment creation and spatial inequality. He emphasised immediate GIS priorities, including strategy development, creating GIS management dashboard, training and application development.

In his presentation on "The capturing and processing of EPWP localities on the EPWP reporting system leading to the integration of spatial applications", Mr. Willem van der Westhuizen, a developer at KWANTU, discussed the capturing and processing of EPWP localities using AI-driven attendance registers with facial recognition for data accuracy.

Mr. Carl Bester and Mr. Stuart Martin, Senior GIS Developers at Environment Systems Research Institute (ESRI), presented on "Reporting system data into the prototyped EPWP GIS management dashboard and a Demonstration of the prototyped EPWP GIS management dashboard". Mr. Martin highlighted the use of small area estimation, in which changes at sub-place levels are quantified and growth rates are calculated, leading to the alignment of indices and the identification of patterns. Mr. Bester presented on the use of spatial information to identify geographic target areas for the EPWP, not only looking at the need for work opportunities but also looking at opportunities in terms of the types of projects.

In her presentation on "Data Visualization for Stakeholder Communication in EPWP: The Use of EPWP Spatial Data in the Department of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation", Ms. Helene Ferreira, Chief GIS Professional at the Department of Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME), gave the context of the hierarchy of governmental plans into which the EPWP reports, with the DPME's role in integrated analysis, publishing of reports and distribution of information to stakeholders. She indicated that most programmes do not succeed, as the EPWP does, to provide spatially referenced data. The DPME website has several tools with story maps. She underscored the need for regular progress updates for effective monitoring. Of particular interest was a map of infrastructure projects in South Africa. It was remarked during the discussions that a lot may be learned by comparing the map of infrastructure projects in South Africa, which was shown as part of the presentation, with the distribution of EPWP Infrastructure Sector projects.

Through her presentation "Data Visualization for Stakeholder Communication in EPWP: The Use of EPWP Spatial Data in the Department of Social Development", Ms. Aretha Strydom from the Department of Social Development demonstrated GIS's use as a flagging tool to identify areas with the greatest need for Social Sector EPWP work opportunities, showcasing how thematic maps can aid in the massification of the EPWP.

Finally, Mr. Sean Cullen, Remote Sensing Specialist at ESRI, showcased ESRI products like base maps and the Way-Back application in the presentation "The Future of GIS in EPWP: Emerging Technologies and Trends". Some of the available maps go back to 2014. The technology lends itself to the demonstration of the impact of especially Sustained Land-Based Livelihoods projects.

The programme of the COP, as well as the discussions, were facilitated by Ms. Tsemedi Malapela, the Chief Information Officer at the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure. The COP was pronounced as meeting its three key objectives, namely: briefing stakeholders on available GIS technology and current developments in the spatial analysis discipline; demonstrating to stakeholders the positive outcomes resulting from integrating GIS into the EPWP; and engaging stakeholders on the role of GIS in EPWP Phase V.



National Youth Service programme prepares future Artisans

Article and Pictures by: Brian Dlamini

The Expanded Public Works programme, National Youth Service through Pretoria Regional Office, hosted an induction workshop for 60 young people who have been recruited to participate on an Artisan Development Training Programme for a period of 18 months.

This recruitment of the young people responds to the commitment made by the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Hon Sihle Zikalala to redesign the EPWP with a clear and sustainable exit opportunities for the participants.

The newly recruited learners will be offered theoretical and practical training in the following trades:

- Civil (Carpentry, Bricklaying and Plumbing)
- Electrical (Heavy current)
- Mechanical (Boiler making, fitting & turning, Milwright and diesel Mechanic)

The learners will be placed for practical work at the following institutions around Pretoria: Pretoria Magistrate Court, Shoshanguve Regional Court, Skills Set Solutions, and Alpha Technical training center.

After the completion of the 18 months training programme, the learners will be taken through a trade test process to be certified as Artisans in various artisan trades.



Bloemfontein Regional Office hosted a graduation ceremony for participants who completed training in Lift Mechanics.

Article and pictures by Khanyisa Moagi



On Friday the 15th March 2024 Bloemfontein Regional Office hosted a graduation ceremony for participants who completed training in Lift Mechanics. The training programme started in May 2022 and was completed on the 1st March 2024.

The prerequisite for the programme was Grade 12 with Mathematics and Science, Electrical and Mechanical engineering at TVET College and must have completed NYS training.

During their training, the participants were responsible for repairs and maintenance of lifts in government buildings around the Free State Province. The programme was identified as expansion into new areas as this is a field EPWP had never ventured into before, NYS Manager in Bloemfontein, Ms Karabo Malebese said.

Majority of these participants were females, and they excelled in the field that is predominantly male dominated. The participants were trained on the following trades:

- Electrical
- Mechanical
- Electronics, and
- Hydraulics

The ceremony was officiated by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) in partnership. With the Department of Employment & Employment (DEL), the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and IFE (the contractor on the project).

In attendance were two former participants who graduated from the 1st group. One of the former participants Mr. Thabang Makau applied and was appointed at Schindler Lifts (SA) (PTY) Ltd (Bloemfontein) for a Lift Mechanics apprenticeship for a period of 3 years, after which he will exit as a certified Lift Mechanic.

The second former participant who was also in attendance was Mr. Relebohile Mangoejane who has been appointed for Electrical Engineering apprenticeship by the Free State Office of the Premier and will be trained at Motheo TVET College.

Another Participant, Mr. Kgahliso Tsoeu also from the 1st group has been appointed for the same apprenticeship programme at Motheo TVET College.

“This goes to show that the training that the participants received opened doors for them.” Ms Malebese said.

Another former Participant, Mr. Matshidiso April Taabos is currently busy with a Bricklaying apprenticeship and is doing his final year (level 4) at Motheo TVET College.

According to Ms Malebese, one of the ladies on this Programme, Ms. Dikeledi Phaladi, is planning to join her brother in Dubai to further her training in Lift Mechanics.

65 Learners graduated from the National Youth Services Programme in Eastern Cape

Article and Pictures: Sobatini Mahlasela



The Port Elizabeth Regional Office of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) hosted a graduation ceremony for 65 Expanded Public Works Programme – National Youth Service (EPWP-NYS) learners at Burgersdorp, Walter Sisulu Local Municipality in Eastern Cape.

In his presentation, The NYS Manager at Port Elizabeth Regional Office, Mr Malusi Noruwana, explained that the participants acquired competence at various Built Environment skills following a 12 months training at Burgersdorp Prison Project. The participants were trained on various Built Environment skills such as plastering, carpentry and bricklaying. Delivering message of support to the learners during the ceremony, Mr Sivenkosi Mngenela, Construction Project Manager at the DPWI's Port Elizabeth Regional Office said, "Over and above everything else, sitting here, you are the future of this country – so the actions you take today will determine the output of the country"

Meanwhile, the Councillor of Ward 3 in Walter Sisulu Local Municipality, Mr Mathee Nel congratulated the graduates for their achievement and wished them well for the future. He also thanked the EPWP for offering training programmes that seek to

alleviate poverty and empower young people with the necessary skills to emancipate themselves from poverty. The graduation ceremony was attended by the EPWP Programme Manager in the Eastern Cape, Mr. Mziwabantu Ntse, Senior officials of the DPWI Port Elizabeth Regional Office and various stakeholders.

As the participants exit the Programme, DPWI gave the learners tool boxes which will be key in carrying out their daily duties as employees or entrepreneurs.

Participants Testimonials

One of the participants, Ms Pheliswa Muma thanked the EPWP for the training and skills imparted and encouraged her fellow participants to use the skills acquired to better themselves.



EPWP: changing lives for the better!

Article and pictures by: Maanea Maselesele



One of the EPWP participants, Tshepo Maruma shares her journey on the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and how it changed her life for the better. Tshepo is a 28 years old lady from Mankweng Township in Limpopo. She joined EPWP in 2020 as a Cleaner at Mankweng under Polokwane Local Municipality. In November 2020, she applied for the EPWP Artisan Development Programme where she got an opportunity to participate in the programme which offers theory and practical training.

I did my artisan training at Lephalale TVET College and the training consisted of both theoretical and practical work. During my practical training I was placed at CBZ Solutions under Medupi Power station in Lephalale-Limpopo Province as a Mechanical Fitter for 12 months. Upon completion of my practical training in 2022, I did a trade test preparation from January 2023 until April 2023. I then did trade test in May 2023 which is successfully completed and got my Red Seal certification at NQF level 5.

I can proudly say I am a qualified artisan, the apprenticeship changed my life for better. The stipend I was earning assisted me a lot as I was able to pay for my transport and to support my daughter. Before this Programme I depended on my mom for survival.

I am also proud to say that I am one of the few participants that were absorbed by their respective companies permanently after completing the EPWP Artisan apprenticeship. This opportunity changed my life for the better, as we all know that trade test is expensive, I wouldn't have been able to do it on my own but EPWP came to my rescue.

I am now able to provide for my family and my life is much better than before, all thanks to EPWP.

I would like to thank National Department Public Works and Infrastructure - EPWP, CBZ, AgriSETA for such a wonderful opportunity, today I am a qualified artisan, and I'm thankful.

Community Works Programme (CWP) Participants received Start and Improve Your Business training in Limpopo

Article and Pictures by: Lerato Mpiwa



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) - Enterprise Development (ED) Limpopo trained 25 Community Work Programme (CWP) Participants on Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB). The four-day training programme was held at Flag Boshielo Primary School - Marble Hall, Matseding - Limpopo from the 23rd - 26th of January 2024.

Participants were recruited and placed under various CWP project. They work two-days in a week and it was deemed necessary to encourage them to start their small businesses in order to top up their stipends and create employment in their communities.

The training targeted participants who have already started with their own cooperatives. "In this training, we have participants who have opened cooperatives in brick manufacturing and crop farming to top up their stipends and sustain themselves after they exit the programme." Said Ms. Annita Mogane - CWP site Manager from Ephrahim Mokgale local Municipality, we are pleased that this much needed training will assist them in managing their businesses effectively and efficiently, added Mogane on her remarks.

The SIYB was developed by the International Labour Organization (ILO) with a focus on starting and improving small businesses as a strategy for creating more and better employment.

On the last day, Ms. Victoria Mphahlele put participants on a SIYB Business game test, this was to assess them on the knowledge gained over the course of their training. The SIYB business game brings theory into practical and provides an opportunity to practice knowledge and skills.

Mr. Malusi Radebe and Mr. Orsborn Neluvhalani officiated the certificate handover, where participants were awarded with the certificate of attendance.

"We are very grateful for the training, as it helped enlighten us on how to run our day-to-day businesses. We have learned many things that we didn't know we needed to do, in-order to run our businesses" said Ms. Rebotile Tiny Tsehla one of the CWP participants after the 4-day SIYB training.

EPWP Gallery

