

# EPWP BULLETIN

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## Expanded Public Works Programme Participants provide social care services to the community of Lehae, South of Johannesburg.

Article & Pictures by: Thembela Sehlapelo

The Expanded Public Works Programme Participants provide social care services to the community of Lehae in Johannesburg. A total number of 25 EPWP participants play a crucial role in the rendering social care services at Mount Olive Outreach which is based in South of Johannesburg, Gauteng.

The aim of the Mount Olive Outreach Non Profit Organisation (NPO) is to address the scourge of Gender based Violence (GBV), fight the spread of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infections and teenage pregnancy in the community.



The NPO has been operating from 2003 and in 2014 Khaya Centre was opened. Mount Olive Outreach is working in partnership with the Department of Social Development, supported by The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, through the Expanded Public Works Programme Social Sector to provide skills training to the youth in the centre.

Participants are trained in Early Childhood Development (ECD) at NQF level 2,

End User Computer and Basic HIV/AIDS Counselling. On completion of the training, the participants will assist in rendering social care services at Khaya Centre and receive a monthly stipend. Khaya Centre provides free foundation phase education, food parcels, nutritional support programme to children and youth.

The centre also run Girls Leadership programme which entails mentorship, educational support and the distribution of hygiene products. According to Valencia Kock, the founder and chairperson of Mount Olive Outreach, a trauma room has been set up on the premises of Khaya Centre, to deal with the prevalent gender based violence, victims receive counselling, with emphasis on healing. 'We don't call them victims, we call them survivors' said Kock.

A number of stakeholders are on board to assist with training. One of the stakeholders is In house Computer Centre which assist unemployed youth with access to computers and internet.



## EPWP Labour Intensive Orientation Workshop

Article & Pictures by: Roslyn Mahlaole

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Large Project Directorate jointly with the Department of Human Settlements hosted a Capacity Building workshop on Labour Intensive Construction at the North West provincial Disaster Management Office.

The workshop was held on the 26-27 November 2024 and it was aimed at addressing key challenges and equipping Human Settlement Officials with the skills needed to implement labour-intensive construction (LIC) methods, thereby advancing EPWP's objectives of job creation and infrastructure development. Ms. Florence Mananzi, representing the EPWP Large Projects Directorate, delivered a presentation on the programmes vision, emphasising labour-intensive methodologies as a cornerstone for achieving the objectives of the EPWP. She highlighted the critical importance of adherence to EPWP guidelines, effective target setting, and strong stakeholder engagement in ensuring successful implementation.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Revelation Modisenyane the Director: Housing Market underscored the importance of the workshop in addressing unemployment and infrastructure challenges especially within the North West Province, a region identified as underperforming. Mr Godfrey Mbhabali EPWP Deputy Director: Technical Support in the North West, highlighted major barriers to progress, including challenges

such as the lack of senior management buy-in, misaligned contract documents, underutilization of available support services and the absence of functional EPWP structures. The workshop provided clarity on implementation challenges identified and offered practical solutions, such as aligning contract documents with EPWP requirements, utilizing social facilitation services from Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) and establishing functional EPWP structures to enhance coordination. Participants that attended the workshop also gained insights into recruitment processes, target setting, and compliance with labour-intensive guidelines. In her closing remarks, Ms. Modisenyane expressed gratitude to the EPWP Large Projects Directorate and all participants for their active engagement.

She noted that the workshop was exceptionally insightful, addressing critical EPWP compliance matters and equipping officials with essential tools to guide contractors in LIC practices and job creation. She further called for similar workshops to be extended to other regions and implementing agents like National Housing Finance Corporations (NHFC) and stressed the importance of incorporating EPWP inputs into departmental strategic documents to enforce compliance.

