

# EPWP BULLETIN

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## EPWP Participants acquire skills to perform beyond Home Community Based Care

### Services

Article by: Maanea Maselesele & Tumelo Sekwele Pictures by: Northern Cape DSD Communication

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI)-Kimberley Regional Office has recently hosted the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) graduation ceremony for 25 participants who successfully completed their twelve months Child and Youth Care Learnership Programme. It was a day filled with jovial mood when participants were handed over their competency certificates accredited by the Health and Welfare SETA (HWSETA) at NQF level 4.

The participants were ushered with words of wisdom from guest speakers encouraging them to plough back to communities. Ms. Rozalda White from the Department of Social Development (DSD) who is responsible for Community-Based Prevention and Early Intervention Services shared her message of support to the participants. "As qualified providers of Home Community Based Care (HCBC) services, I plead with you to utilise the skills you have acquired to serve your communities effectively. Please go out and advocate the importance of food and nutrition which is essential for maintaining good health and development of children," Ms White concluded.

This EPWP Social Sector training programme was facilitated by Soyisa Learning Institute and it was designed to prepare caregivers to transition beyond Home Community Based Care services to improved delivery of social services to the target communities. The participants were sourced from three Non Profit Organisations (NPOs) contracted to Department of Social Development (DSD) namely: Tshpong Organisation and ICWIMP, both in Galeshewe, and Ikhayaletu in Homevale and Roodepan respectively. Addressing the participants during the graduation ceremony, the DPWI Kimberley Regional Office Manager, Ms Ruwayda Baulackey urged the graduates to implement the knowledge and skills they acquired from this life changing training programme to advance their future employment prospects. Ms Baulackey further indicated that the skills would empower participants to provide quality services to communities.

These participants are working as Care Givers in various NPOs and have been performing HCBC tasks such as providing psychological support to orphans and vulnerable children as well as creating linkages with relevant departments for access to social services. These services include palliative care to the elderly and the sick, providing treatment support for people living with HIV/AIDS, raising awareness campaigns about the diseases and assist vulnerable households to apply for Identity Documents and birth certificates from the Department of Home Affairs.

According to Sandra Mcumi, training Manager at DPWI- Kimberley Regional Office, these participants also provide support to schools by reporting learners' absenteeism and drug abuse. The Training was funded by the Department of Higher education and Training (DHET) through the National Skills Fund (NSF).

In attendance were officials from DPWI, DSD and HWSETA One participant, Ms. Zelda Ackerman, reminisced on the skills she acquired from the programme, such as interacting with people, particularly children. She further expressed her gratitude for the training because it assisted her in opening a day care centre in Roodepan in Kimberley.



## Gauteng Department of Health empowers EPWP participants

Article & Pictures by: Tumelo Sekwele

The Gauteng Department of Health has recently hosted a three-day Office Administration training session for 50 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants. The training was appraised at NQF Level 4 and was aimed at enhancing participants' understanding of office administration's role in an organisation. The training focused on two modules, namely: developing administrative procedures in a selected organization, and Managing Administration records.

The Participants were recruited from five Gauteng districts namely: Tshwane, Johannesburg, Ekurhuleni, West Rand and Sedibeng.

Participants are currently on a 12 months programme and placed at different clinics across the 5 Gauteng districts. This programme is funded through the EPWP Social Sector Incentive Grant. The participants are categorised as facility assistants and are responsible for performing various



administrative tasks such as record keeping, filling, data capturing which includes capturing of patients files data on the Health Patient Registration system [HPRS]. In addition, the participants assist with reception duties and manage the various queues in the clinics to avoid long waiting period for patients.

The Training facilitator Ms. Helen Kajawu highlighted that the two modules and the basic practical computer skills offered are targeting proper management of records and efficient services within an organization.

Ms. Veronica Tholakele Zondi a participant placed at Alexander Clinic as an administrator, expressed her enthusiasm, noting that the programme has improved her professionalism and future patient interactions. She encouraged greater participation in the EPWP, emphasising its potential to enhance skills and positively affect lives.

