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Expanded Public Works Programme Recruits 120 Participants for Life Skills Development Training

Article & Pictures by: Oageng Mathenje

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), in partnership with the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure in KwaZulu-Natal, has taken a proactive step towards reducing poverty and youth unemployment in the Mandeni Local Municipality.

A total of 120 participants have been recruited to undergo theoretical Life Skills Orientation training as a foundation for further technical skills development. This initiative is linked to the construction of the Sundumbili Magistrate Court, a five-story building officially handed over to the Mandeni Local Municipality in April 2025. The project is expected to be completed by May 2029.

As part of the EPWP's National Youth Service (NYS), 74 unemployed youth from Ward 18 in Mandeni have been recruited and contracted to participate in the NYDA-funded Life Skills Orientation Programme. The training is designed to prepare NYS participants for technical training before they are deployed on-site.

The main contractor for the Sundumbili Magistrate Court project is Musan Trading (Pty) Ltd. The project will unfold in three key phases:

- Phase 1: Theoretical Life Skills Training
- Phase 2: Technical Training
- Phase 3: On-site Practical Application

This developmental approach not only supports local employment but also empowers young people with essential skills for long-term growth in the construction and infrastructure sector.



Thirty-Four Vuk'uphile Learner Contractors Undergo Business Training to Strengthen Construction Enterprises

Article by: Khanyisa Moagi & Pictures by: Roslyn Mahlaole

Thirty-four Vuk'uphile Learner Contractors from the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure are currently participating in the Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) training programme. This initiative is delivered through a partnership between the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) and the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, aimed at equipping learner contractors with essential business management skills to sustain and grow their enterprises.

As part of their professional development, the learners were first enrolled in a technical qualification learnership — Supervision of Construction Processes (NQF Level 4) — which ran from 7 April to 4 July 2025.

To complement their technical training, the learner contractors are now undergoing the SIYB programme, a globally recognised training system developed by the International Labour Organization (ILO). SIYB is designed to empower Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) by strengthening their management capacity using practical, context-appropriate tools for developing economies.

The Improve Your Business (IYB) module — one of four within the SIYB programme — is being delivered to the 34 contractors as they already own and operate construction-related businesses. The training, running from 7 to 11 July 2025, focuses on six key modules:

- Marketing
- Costing
- Buying and Stock Control
- Record Keeping
- Planning for Your Business

- People and Productivity

The training is also supported by SARS and the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB), who will provide participants with critical compliance and regulatory guidance relevant to the construction sector.

This blended technical and business development initiative ensures that Vuk'uphile learner contractors are not only prepared to supervise construction work but are also well-positioned to run successful and sustainable enterprises—contributing meaningfully to local economic development and job creation.

