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Polokwane Regional Office Hosts Renewable Energy Training Aligned with EPWP Phase 5 Priorities

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The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Training Unit, under the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI), recently hosted a 43-day accredited Renewable Energy Training Programme at the Thabazimbi Cost Centre. Training started on 09 June 2025 until 22 July 2025 and focused on equipping 19 learners with practical and theoretical skills in the renewable energy sector.

Participants were enrolled in the CETA-accredited Occupational Certificate: Renewable Energy Workshop Assistant (NQF Level 4), a qualification designed to support the green economy and energy sustainability.

To enhance hands-on learning, the group also attended practical sessions at Sekhukhune TVET College, facilitated by expert trainer Mr. Shonisani Ndou. The curriculum spanned 33 comprehensive modules, including:

- Introduction to Renewable Energy
- Renewable Energy Technologies
- Legislative and Economic Frameworks
- Workplace Safety Regulations
- Occupational Health and Safety Legislation

According to Ms. Melika Nkuna, Assistant Director, Training Coordinator at the DPWI Polokwane Regional Office, the programme's impact goes beyond job readiness: "The goal is to equip participants with both technical and entrepreneurial skills. We want to empower them to start their own businesses and contribute to solar energy solutions in their communities."

Participant Mr. Lesley Napo shared his enthusiasm for the opportunity: "This programme taught us how to use solar as an alternative energy source. I'm now inspired to open my own solar panel installation business."

This training initiative forms part of EPWP Phase 5's broader objectives—empowering youth, building market-relevant skills, and accelerating the transition to renewable energy in South Africa.

