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Burgersdorp Correctional Centre Upgrade Project Opens Doors of Opportunity for Graduates

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Burgersdorp, Eastern Cape – A vibrant atmosphere of achievement and hope filled the Burgersdorp Town Hall as the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) proudly recognised the dedication and success of twenty National Youth Service (NYS) participants who contributed to the Burgersdorp Correctional Centre Upgrade, Repairs & Renovations Project.

Each graduate received a certificate accredited at National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Level 2. The project, which commenced in April 2022 and is expected to conclude in June 2026, has not only transformed the facility but also created meaningful socio-economic opportunities for the local community.

To date, the rehabilitation project has benefited 40 local SMMEs, including L.Z. Sidiya & Sons, Imbokotho Security, Mora & Bobo, Malakhiwe Holdings, and Ukhanyo Company. The NYS participants were trained in essential construction skills such as:

- Painting
- Tiling
- Bricklaying
- Carpentry

Inspiring the Next Generation

Delivering the keynote address, the Mayor of Walter Sisulu Local Municipality, Ms. Vania David, drew on her own journey as a former Community Works Programme (CWP) participant. She shared how the programme changed her life, stating:

"The CWP was not just about receiving a stipend; more importantly, it was about gaining valuable skills and knowledge. You are entering a new phase of your lives. You are the seeds of hope we have planted and nurtured through this programme – ready to bear fruit in your communities, workplaces, and across our nation."

She urged graduates to uphold the programme's core values – Ubuntu, service, excellence, and responsibility – as they forge ahead in their careers.

Success Stories

Graduates Ms. Kaister Genevieve and Ms. Keyise Sihle shared how they entered the programme with no prior construction experience. Today, they stand confident in their skills, ready to take on new opportunities. Notably, four women from the NYS cohort have been absorbed by the main contractor, GVK-Siyazama, where they will lead landscaping work on the project.

Stakeholder Support

The graduation ceremony was attended by representatives from the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) Gqeberha Regional Office, Walter Sisulu Local Municipality, Ingwe TVET College, and the Department of Correctional Services (DCS).

