

# EPWP BULLETIN

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## EPWP ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT: EMPOWERING 300 YOUTH IN NORTH WEST

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The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) - Mmabatho Regional office, in collaboration with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) have recently delivered Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) training to 300 newly appointed Youth in DFFE Youth Incubator Project of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

The training was conducted across three district municipalities in the North West Province namely: Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality, Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality and Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality.

This Incubator Project is aimed at tackling youth unemployment by providing targeted support to young graduates, particularly those emerging from EPWP initiatives. The project's objective is to reskill young people through comprehensive entrepreneurship training and development.

The following are the key training components:

Reskilling and Capacity Building: Equipping EPWP youth graduates with essential entrepreneurial and employability skills.

- **Mentorship and Business Incubation:** Providing structured mentorship and incubation services to support the development and sustainability of new enterprises.
- **Accredited Training in new venture creation:** Providing formal training on critical business aspects such as business plan development, financial management, and tender processes.
- **Exit Strategy:** Facilitating pathways for transitioning young people from training to business establishment, thereby fostering self-employment.
- **Addressing youth unemployment:** Promoting entrepreneurship as a tool to create job opportunities, harness youth talent, and contribute to economic development.

The EPWP Enterprise Development team facilitated the Generate Your Business Idea (GYBI) training programme which is designed for individuals who aspire to start businesses but need guidance in pursuing specific business ideas. This phase helped participants to explore various business ideas, evaluate them, and select the most viable ones.

Following GYBI, the team delivered the Start Your Business (SYB) training, tailored for potential entrepreneurs with feasible business concepts. This phase guided participants through the development of detailed business plans and provided practical steps to launch their enterprises.

Participants expressed appreciation for the practical and engaging training as well as dedication of the facilitators.

"The training has equipped us to start viable businesses, as we managed to develop business plans during the five-day session," said Portia Mgwangwa, speaking on behalf of the participants.

The sessions were facilitated by Ms Rhoda Moroe, EPWP Enterprise Development Manager based at the Mmabatho Regional Office, with support from facilitators from Bloemfontein, Kimberley, and Gauteng Regional Offices.

Ms. Moroe stated that going forward, the trained participants will be empowered to submit their business plans to both public and private funding agencies and will be better positioned to manage successful enterprises.

The EPWP Enterprise Development Unit serves as a crucial support mechanism for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) created through EPWP interventions. The support which is provided to these businesses include entrepreneurial skills which play a vital role in transforming job seekers into job creators.

