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Emalahleni EPWP Participants Graduate in Plant Production

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The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), in partnership with the Emalahleni Local Municipality, recently celebrated the successful completion of the National Certificate in Plant Production (NQF Level 2) by 30 EPWP participants.

The graduation ceremony, held on 22 October 2025 in Emalahleni, Mpumalanga, marked a proud and inspiring milestone for the graduates, their families, and all stakeholders involved in the programme. The training was funded by the National Skills Fund (Department of Higher Education and Training) and implemented by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI). The programme aimed to equip participants with practical agricultural skills that contribute to food security, environmental sustainability, and sustainable livelihoods.

The training commenced in October 2024 and concluded in November 2024, covering 31 days of intensive learning. Throughout the programme, participants received both theoretical instruction and hands-on experience in key areas such as soil fertility and plant nutrition to improve soil health, agribusiness management, stock control, and effective resource management and record-keeping. In his address, the Executive Mayor of Emalahleni Local Municipality, Cllr. Vusi Julius Nhlapho, congratulated the graduates on their dedication and perseverance.

He emphasised that the graduation symbolised more than the attainment of certificates, but rather the growth, resilience, and empowerment of individuals who are now better positioned to contribute to food security and local economic development.

The Chief Director for EPWP Partnership Support, Mr. Musa Ntshani, encouraged graduates to actively apply the skills they had acquired. He highlighted that the knowledge gained should be used to create opportunities, generate income, and promote independence and sustainability within their communities. Representing AgriSETA, Mr. Tsepo Ndlangamandla noted that the agricultural learnership provided comprehensive exposure to crop production, livestock management, and agribusiness. He proudly shared that some graduates have already begun producing eggs, demonstrating the immediate impact and practical value of the training.

Mr. Wiseman Ngwenya from Gert Sibande TVET College applauded the graduates for their commitment and perseverance. He emphasised that the programme empowers participants with the confidence and tools needed to start small enterprises, create employment opportunities, and contribute meaningfully to local economic growth.

