

# EPWP BULLETIN

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## EPWP Trains Youth in Solar Installation in Limpopo

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The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Infrastructure Sector recently conducted an official site visit to monitor progress on the Pafuri Port of Entry Project, located in the northern part of the Kruger National Park in Limpopo.

The project focuses on the supply and installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, alongside the refurbishment of the wastewater treatment facility at the port of entry—advancing sustainable infrastructure solutions in a strategically significant and remote area. Training for the project commenced on 1 October 2024 and ended on the 31 October 2025. The initiative is implemented by the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

Diphatse Trading and Projects was appointed as the main contractor, with Mega Volt Loden Electrical serving as the subcontractor responsible for the Solar PV installations. This initiative forms part of the EPWP's broader objective to provide meaningful training while creating work opportunities and building technical capacity among South African youth. Ten young participants were recruited through the Musina Local Municipality under the EPWP National Youth Service Programme (NYS) to undergo both theoretical and practical training in Solar PV Installation. The training aims to equip participants with technical competencies and essential life skills to support their transition into sustainable employment or entrepreneurship within the renewable energy and infrastructure sectors.

Participants have already completed theoretical training in key areas, including life skills, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), risk management, project evaluation procedures, renewable energy fundamentals, basic electrical principles, and solar panel installation. The site visit confirmed that the project is progressing well, with several milestones already achieved. Completed activities include site clearing and de-bushing for the solar plant, construction of concrete slabs, establishment of a dedicated battery storage and generator storeroom, erection of steel structures, excavation for the new sewer reticulation system, and initial refurbishment work on the existing wastewater treatment infrastructure.

Deputy Director for Environmental Services under the EPWP National Youth Service in the Polokwane Regional Office, Arnold Mashamba, praised the project's impact, stating:

"This initiative not only equips participants with practical skills but also empowers them to generate an income as they transition out of the programme."

One of the programme participants, Mulisa Munyai, expressed appreciation for the opportunity and shared future aspirations:

"I hope to start my own solar installation business when I exit the programme, using the knowledge and skills I have gained."

The Pafuri Port of Entry Project continues to demonstrate the EPWP's commitment to infrastructure development, skills transfer, and sustainable solutions, particularly in remote and strategically important regions. Director for EPWP National Youth Service, Lefentse Ratsela, reaffirmed the programme's strategic importance and impact:

"The Expanded Public Works Programme National Youth Service is deeply committed to equipping young people with meaningful, accredited skills training that enhances employability and empowers them to contribute meaningfully to the economy. The Pafuri Port of Entry Project exemplifies our dedication to sustainable development through skills transfer and youth empowerment. We take great pride in seeing participants gain competencies that will benefit them well beyond the programme's duration."

