

EPWP BULLETIN

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EPWP continues to improve participants' employability in Cacadu, Eastern Cape

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The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) continues to strengthen employability and create sustainable exit opportunities for participants through targeted skills development initiatives. As part of this commitment, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI), in partnership with Ikhala TVET College, recently provided an accredited Skills Programme training course to 25 EPWP participants from Cacadu in the Eastern Cape.

The training programme focused on equipping participants with practical retail skills, including customer service, merchandise display, and stock-taking. These competencies are designed to enhance workplace readiness and improve participants' prospects of securing employment within the retail sector and related industries.

To complement the theoretical component of the training, participants were placed at retail stores in Cacadu for workplace experiential learning. This practical exposure enabled participants to apply their newly acquired knowledge in a real working environment, strengthening their confidence and professional skills.

Upon successful completion of the programme, participants were awarded a National Certificate in Shelf Filler (NQF Level 2). The training was facilitated by Ms Nolubabalo Ngwanya from Ikhala TVET College, who guided participants through both the academic and practical components of the course.

One of the beneficiaries, Ms Nelisiwe Temela, described the programme as life-changing. She explained that the training improved her confidence and communication skills, particularly in interacting with customers, while also providing valuable insight into how businesses operate. Inspired by the experience, she now hopes to further her education and explore opportunities to start her own business in the future.

This initiative highlights the EPWP's ongoing role in addressing unemployment and poverty by combining temporary work opportunities with meaningful skills transfer. By empowering participants with accredited training and workplace experience, the programme continues to contribute to socio-economic development and support inclusive growth across communities in South Africa.

