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THE EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME PROVIDE PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

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The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Enterprise Development Unit hosted a five-day Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) training for the EPWP participants exiting the Programme, with the prospects to enter into formal employment and entrepreneurship. The training commenced on 22 until 26 June 2026 in Groblersdal - Limpopo Province.

The workshop was aimed at equipping EPWP participants with knowledge and business management skills required to establish and grow successful enterprises beyond their participation in the Programme.

The SIYB is a globally recognised business management training initiative developed by the International Labour Organization (ILO). It is designed to support aspiring and existing entrepreneurs in developing and managing business ideas.

This training formed part of the EPWP's exit strategy, ensuring that participants exit the Programme with the capacity to create sustainable income-generating opportunities and contribute meaningfully to local economic development.

The training modules entailed: Generate Your Business Idea (GYB) as well as Start and Improve Your Business. These modules guided participants through the process of identifying viable business opportunities, evaluating different ideas, and selecting business concepts that align with market demand and their individual strengths, furthermore participants were introduced to the practical steps in establishing and managing successful businesses.

Participants received training on key business principles, including, financial planning marketing plan, buying, costing and record keeping. The training outcomes for participants included developing a comprehensive business plan to guide the establishment of their enterprise or presented to financial institutions and other potential funding partners

Speaking during the workshop, EPWP Enterprise Development Manager in Limpopo, Ms Victoria Mphahlele, emphasised the importance of entrepreneurship as a pathway to sustainable economic empowerment.

"The EPWP is not only about creating temporary work opportunities; it is also about equipping participants with the skills, knowledge and confidence to become self-reliant. Through the SIYB programme, we are empowering participants to identify business opportunities, develop viable business plans and create sustainable enterprises that will continue generating income long after they have exited the programme." said Ms Mphahlele.

The EPWP continues to create pathways for participants to become active contributors to South Africa's economy while improving their livelihoods and those of their communities.

