

EPWP BULLETIN

VOLUME 2. ISSUE 53 14 AUGUST 2026



Empowering EPWP Participants Through Accredited Training

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The National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI), through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Training Unit in Polokwane partnered with Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality to provide Building and Civil Construction learnership programme to EPWP participants.

A total of 25 EPWP participants from the Roads and Stormwater Maintenance Programme under the Infrastructure Sector were identified to participate in the Learnership programme where they successfully completed the 10-month NQF Level 3 accredited training programme. The training commenced on 15 September 2025 and concluded on 31 July 2026.

The participants included 16 women, 13 Young people and one person with disability. This representation demonstrated the Programme's commitment to inclusive gender equity and youth empowerment

Building and Civil Construction was identified as a scarce and high-demand skill with the potential to address local skills shortages, and create employment opportunities while supporting infrastructure development in the Sekhukhune District.

Participants received both theoretical and practical training in construction trades, including bricklaying, plastering and tiling.

DPWI Training Coordinator Ms Tsakani Maringa commended the partnership between the Department and Sekhukhune TVET College. She said the collaboration is equipping participants with skills that will benefit them long after the programme ends.

This qualification will help the participants to pursue employment opportunities beyond the EPWP and also create opportunities for further study and progression towards artisan qualifications.

Facilitator Ashley Phatudi Mphahlele of Sekhukhune TVET College expressed satisfaction with the programme. He praised the participants for their excellent attendance and commitment throughout the training.

"We are satisfied with the progress made by the participants. Their attendance has been excellent, reflecting their commitment to learning," he said.

The Makhuduthumaga Local Municipality has already already benefitted from the programme as participants have applied their newly acquired skills to maintenance work at municipal facilities, including tiling and plastering.

Speaking on behalf of the participants, team leader Mr Elias Sebopela encouraged the DPWI to continue supporting the initiative by extending the training to NQF Level 4, including trade testing.

"These qualifications are important, particularly in a mining region such as Sekhukhune, where technical and construction skills are in high demand," he said.

"This is more than just a training programme, it is an investment in the participants' future employment opportunities. I appreciate the strong collaboration between the Department and Sekhukhune TVET College. The skills that the participants have acquired contribute directly to the economic development of Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality and the broader Sekhukhune District," she said.

The EPWP Infrastructure Sector continues to equip participants with accredited skills that improve employability. The training forms part of the broader EPWP Reform Programme, which aims to create pathways to sustainable livelihoods.



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