

EPWP BULLETIN

VOLUME 2. ISSUE 56. 04 September 2026



EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME PARTICIPANTS EMPOWER THROUGH THE ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICE TRAINING

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The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) continues to create skills development and economic empowerment opportunities for the participants implementing the EPWP projects across all sectors. Recently, a total number of 12 EPWP participants from Komani (Queenstown) in the Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality in the Eastern Cape have successfully completed the Environmental Practice Training Programme (NQF Level 2).

This one-month training was provided by Planet Consulting and accredited by the Local Government Sector Education and Training Authority (LGSETA) as a National Certificate: Environmental Practice (NQF Level 2). This training formed part of the EPWP Community Parks Maintenance project in the Komani Area. It focused on maintaining public parks through landscaping, facility repairs, equipment maintenance, waste management and beautification initiatives.

Through these activities, the project contributed to the provision of clean, safe and family-friendly public spaces while promoting environmental sustainability. Implemented by Chris Hani District Municipality, the project has also created employment opportunities and enabled participants, particularly women and young people, to gain valuable skills, practical experience and workplace exposure.

The project commenced on 1 June 2026 and concluded on 30 June 2026. During its implementation, the participants were equipped with practical knowledge and skills in environmental management, including workplace safety and productivity, the operation of waste disposal facilities, separation, handling, storage, treatment and transportation of waste.

This was a life changing opportunity for the participant who indicated that the training represented more than just an opportunity to obtain a qualification as it provided skills that will enhance their employment prospects and community development.

Mrs Babalwa Dlali, one of the EPWP participants, described the training as an important investment in her future. She said the Programme

provided her with practical skills and knowledge that could improve her employment opportunities.

She added that for the duration of the project implementation, the EPWP did not only benefit the participants as it also contributed to environmental protection and the creation of cleaner communities.

Another EPWP participant-Mr Phikolomzi Robeni also shared his experience within the Programme. He highlighted that the practical component of the training was one of its key benefits. He said the practical sessions helped him develop a better understanding of waste management process from the point at which waste is generated through to its safe disposal.

He said the knowledge and skills acquired through the Programme will also enable him to educate members of his community about the Importance of keeping the environment clean and protecting it for future generations.

The successful completion of the training demonstrates the EPWP's continued commitment to combining temporary employment opportunities with meaningful skills development, enabling participants to acquire competencies that can support their livelihoods beyond the Programme.



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