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DPWI AND ILO HOST TRAINING PROGRAMME ON EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND THE FUTURE OF EMPLOYMENT

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The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI), in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), hosted the Emerging Technologies and New Frontiers for Employment and Just Transitions Training Programme from 10–13 November 2026 in Sandton, Johannesburg.

The high-level four-day training programme aimed to equip Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) officials from the national, provincial and municipal spheres of government with the knowledge and practical skills to explore how artificial intelligence (AI), digital tools and data innovation can enhance the implementation and delivery of public works and community-based projects.

Opening the first day of the training, ILO Director, Mr Alexio Musindo, emphasised the importance of South Africa embracing emerging technologies and recognising their potential to strengthen Public Employment Programmes.

Ms Grace Rapholo, Chief Director: Monitoring and Evaluation at DPWI, highlighted the importance of leveraging mobile technology and digital platforms to improve programme planning, service delivery and the verification of learning outcomes. She emphasised that technology should ultimately contribute to improved services and more effective programme implementation. Ms Rapholo further indicated that DPWI is currently developing a digital strategy for the EPWP, which will explore opportunities to integrate technology into programme processes, strengthen implementation and improve overall efficiency.

On the third day of the programme, Ms Nayri Samishonga from WeThink Digital delivered a presentation on Digital Employment, Coding, Data and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Skills. Her presentation highlighted the growing importance of digital competencies in preparing workers for the changing world of employment.

Closing the four-day training programme, the Deputy Director-General: EPWP, Ms Carmen-Joy Abrahams, thanked the participants and organisers for their contributions and commitment to the successful implementation of the programme. She reiterated EPWP's vision of embracing emerging technologies to strengthen programme implementation, improve efficiency and create more effective work opportunities.

Upon completion of the training, participants were awarded certificates of attendance in recognition of their participation in the programme. The initiative marks an important step towards positioning the EPWP to respond to the changing world of work by embracing innovation, digital transformation and emerging technologies to enhance public employment opportunities.







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