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EPWP DURBAN REGIONAL OFFICE HANDS OVER CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY TO 48 PARTICIPANTS

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The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI), through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), in partnership with the Independent Development Trust (IDT), has celebrated the achievement of 48 EPWP participants who qualified as Assistant Handypersons.

The certificate handover ceremony took place at Umfolozi TVET College, Richteck Campus, in Richards Bay, KwaZulu- Natal (KZN) The graduates were drawn from Celukuthula and Phathakahle Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs). They successfully completed an accredited Occupational Skills Programme in Assistant Handyperson.

The 103-day training programme equipped participants with practical skills in basic plumbing, light electrical work and carpentry. These included repairing leaking taps and running toilets, replacing light bulbs, fixing doors, cabinet hinges and locks, as well as performing other minor maintenance tasks.

The qualification is registered at National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Level 3 and carries 82 credits, providing participants with industry-recognised skills that can enhance their employability and open doors to further learning opportunities.

One of the graduates, Ms Nontobeko Myeni, expressed her appreciation to the DPWI and the IDT for the opportunity to participate in the programme. “This programme has changed my life for the better. Today I am able to fix things with my own hands — changing bulbs, fixing lockers and other handy works,” she said.

The EPWP Senior Manager in KZN- Mr Sduduzo Simelane, congratulated the graduates on their achievement and commended them for their commitment and dedication throughout the training programme. He highlighted that the qualification provides a pathway towards further learning and a full qualification. Having achieved 82 credits, participants require an additional 38 credits to reach the 120 credits needed.

Mr Simelane further encouraged the graduates to build on their newly acquired competencies by enrolling in artisan programmes at Umfolozi TVET College, emphasising the importance of continuous skills development.

Through initiatives such as this, EPWP continues to invest in skills development, enhance employability and create opportunities for participants to contribute meaningfully to their communities. The achievement of these 48 graduates demonstrates how practical, accredited training can empower individuals, strengthen local capacity and support sustainable livelihoods.



