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EPWP PHASE 3 CREATES 1.24 MILLION WORK OPPORTUNITIES IN FIRST YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION

By Michael Mokoena



THE GOVERNMENT'S massive public employment programme to create more than 6 million work opportunities by 2019 has generated 1.24 million work opportunities in its first year of implementation, the Deputy Minister of Public Works Mr Jeremy Cronin said on 06 May 2015.

Contributing to the Department's Budget Vote delivered by Minister TW Nxesi in Parliament in Cape Town, Deputy Minister Cronin announced that Phase 3 of Government's Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) had by the end of March 2015 overachieved on its 1st year target.

"By the end of March 2015, a total of 1.24 million work opportunities had been created – against a targeted of 1,04 million, in other words, we overachieved at 119 percent. In short we are on track to meet the 6 million work opportunity target by 2019. The target of creating over 6 million work opportunities by 2019 is in line with that set in the National Development Plan (NDP)," Deputy Minister Cronin said.

He however expressed a slight concern in the EPWP's ability to meet its target on the Full Time Equivalents (EFTs) – jobs calculated as 230 days of work, per person, per year.

"By the end of December 2014, we were only at 79 percent of the third quarter target," he added.

The Deputy Minister pointed out that the illusion that EPWP work opportunities were necessarily short-term and temporary did not hold since programmes such as infrastructure maintenance, work in social sector and in the Community Work Programme (CWP) tended to be longer in duration.

Mr Cronin explained that the National Department of Public Works (NDPW) played a critical lead role in the Government flagship public employment programmes).

He said that EPWP now in its third, five-year phase, is a globally innovative programme that is multi-sectorial and in which all spheres of government are actively participating.

"We work closely with all Government entities, departments, municipalities, our communities through local NGOs to move the Public Employment Programme forward. We also work collaboratively with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in order to share experiences of government-led Public Employment Programmes across countries and the continent. There is considerable international interest in South Africa's EPWP and we regularly host international delegates who are keen to learn from us," he added.

Statistics South Africa data

Deputy Minister Cronin quoted the data from the 2014 Labour Market Dynamics survey which found that "In 2014, seven out of the ten of those who participated in the EPWP and other Government job creation programmes were employed." This was up from 56.9 percent in 2011. The survey also found that four out of every five participants who were employed had formal sector job.

"These are statistics independent of our own NDPW monitoring and evaluation. To be honest, I find them surprising on the up-side. We will engage with StatsSA to get a better understanding of these very encouraging indicators at a time when pathways into formal employment are exceedingly difficult," he stated.

Measuring the outputs of Public Employment Programmes (PEPs)

Deputy Minister Cronin said that the Department was committed to monitoring and evaluating products/assets produced by PEPs.

"We have started to record outputs more systematically, and for the first three quarters of the past financial year, we have seen some interesting output indicators. By December 2014, in the Infrastructure sector 33 070km of fencing had been erected; 109 923km pipelines laid down; 450km storm water drains constructed and 64 632 km of roads maintained," he explained.

In the Environmental and culture sector, the Deputy Minister said that 1 366ha had been treated for invasive alien vegetation; 92 677 households had been serviced through waste collection; 20 045 trees

planted; nearly 4000 square metres of dumping sites cleaned; and 6860 cemeteries cleaned.

In the Social Sector nearly 20 000 Home Based Care practitioners were deployed and trained; 1 542 830 learners were benefiting from the National School Nutrition Programme which employed significant numbers of EPWP participants; and 184 321 learners were supported through the Teacher Assistant EPWP programme.

Building Community Cohesion

Deputy Minister Cronin said that the developmental impact of the Government's Public Employment Programmes (PEPs) in communities was enormous.

"In the aftermath of the previous surge of xenophobic violence in 2008, the Society, Work and Development Institute (SWOP) at the University of Witwatersrand (Wits) and the Centre for the Study of Violence and

knowledge, but co-creators of knowledge.

"This is exactly what Seriti set out to do in Bokfontein," the Deputy Minister said.

He continued to explain that for this community, this good story began as a series of workshops with community members sharing reflections on their individual traumas. He said this helped the community to deal with anger and a sense of disempowerment.

"As the workshops progressed, topics included delving into different ethnic identities and the learning to sing each other's songs. – some of the community members for instance were Shona-speakers from Zimbabwe"

"Practical skills were also introduced, from community mapping to dealing with crime, alcoholism and domestic violence. Participants collaborated in envisioning a different and shared future for their community, which included renaming Bokfontein – Tshaba-di-Maketse (literally The Nations are Amazed)," Deputy Minister Cronin explained.

He added that the workshop then laid the basis for the launch of the Bokfontein Community Work Programme (CWP) site, as part of the wider EPWP.

"In 2010 when the SWOP/CSVR study was conducted, some 800 community members were participating in Bokfontein CWP," the Deputy Minister said.

He indicated that the community members worked from 8am to 3pm twice a week on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

"This left other days to do other things. Including looking for formal employment," he said.



Reconciliation brought out an important publication, "The smoke that calls".

"The case studies exposed many common patterns in outbreaks of township violence, finding, for instance, that community protests and xenophobic attacks often overlap," he said.

He further said that one case study done by these institutions was exceptional as it was about the marginalised informal settlement called Bokfontein near Brits, which at the height of the 2008 xenophobic violence became "an island of stability, and refuge for fleeing foreign nationals"

Why...since this community was prone to chronic violence itself as those who lived there were not receiving adequate government services such as water and were also competing amongst themselves for scarce resources?

The Deputy Minister explained that this community was made up of families who were evicted from farms in the Hartebeespoort Dam area in 2005 and in the following year were joined by other evictees from Melodi.

"According to community members, the turning point came when Bokfontein was selected as a pilot site for the Community Work Programme (CWP) in 2008," Deputy Minister Cronin explained.

He pointed out that Seriti, a non-profit organisation, was appointed by Government as the facilitating agency. Seriti is an NGO inspired by the work of the Brazilian activist and popular educator, Paulo Freire, who called for "a pedagogy of the oppressed" – a collective, participatory process in which learners are not empty vessels to be filled with



Deputy Minister Cronin further stated that at the time the participants were earning R50 a day, "a small but regular and welcome contribution to household income".

"The community itself decided which public work to undertake and different teams worked on road maintenance, communal gardening, home-based care, and after-school care. With Government funding, but without waiting for government delivery, the community dug its own bore-hole and installed water-pipes to their homes. Useful resources and services were collectively provided, community cohesion and self-esteem was built in the community," he said.

Leadership qualities also emerged in the community with people like Mr King-George Mohlala being one of the shining examples.

Deputy Minister Cronin spoke about his recent interaction with Mr Mohlala.

"For me CWP was life-changing" Mohlala had told the Deputy Minister at that time.

When the Deputy Minister asked Mohlala whether the recent attacks on foreign nationals affected his community, Mohlala responded: "No, we just heard about it (xenophobic attacks) in the media".

Deputy Minister Cronin hailed the Bokfontein case study.

"Of course, in real life not everything works out smoothly. There will be challenges, lessons to be learned and mistakes corrected as we scale up our Public Employment Programme. There is one thing however, as South Africans we have shown, there are grounds to believe, without undue modesty or arrogance that Tshaba-diMaketse (The Nations have reasons to be Amazed)," Deputy Minister Cronin added.

EPWP PARTICIPANTS DRIVING COMMUNITY DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN EKURHULENI

Richard Masemola

THE GOVERNMENT, through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), is working with communities that are residing in informal settlements around the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality in Gauteng to proactively limit and deal with disaster incidents such as shack fires in the area by training the public in community emergency response.

The programme entitled Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), is part of the municipality's Disaster Management and it relies on training volunteers which include EPWP participants in basic disaster management.

The CERT programme is one of many EPWP Social Sector programmes that are being implemented by the Government with the objective of providing work opportunities and income support to poor and unemployed people through the labour-intensive delivery of public and community assets, thereby contributing to development.

These disaster management volunteers and EPWP participants become the first line of defence for their communities in times of disasters.

"These EPWP participants are good Samaritans who are willing to make their neighborhoods safe from disasters such as fires and floods. In fact these volunteers have proven themselves to be an active and vital part of their communities' preparedness and responses capability at times of disaster," the municipality's senior disaster management personnel Pieter Rudolph said.

Addressing the EPWP participants at the fire station in Boksburg recently, Rudolph made it clear that the kind of training the volunteers received was elementary and DID NOT replace the municipality's disaster management function.

"The type of training given to the EPWP participants is basic and is meant to provide temporary relief while qualified fire and emergency personnel are still on their way to the distressed community. It must be clear that disaster management services in those communities remain under the jurisdiction and function of the municipality and that CERT merely supplements this function," he added.

The CERT was initially established in 2009 as a pilot project by the Public Information Education and Relation (PIER) section in the Municipality because of the number of emergency cases in the informal settlements. At that time the enrolled members were not receiving any form of payment or stipend. In 2010 the Disaster and Emergency Management Services (DEMS) department in the municipality officially launched the programme and in 2013 each enrolled member began receiving EPWP stipend of R2000 per month.

Currently the municipality, through this programme, has recruited and enrolled 600 active members.

Through the municipality's monitoring and evaluation processes it was found that this project has met all their set targets. In

addition to their stipends the EPWP participants are receiving benefits like Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF), Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases (COIDA) as per legislative requirements.

CERT Programme objectives:

- To enable neighborhood teams to prepare and/or respond effectively to emergencies and fires until the professional team arrive;
- To provide a link between neighborhood and professional team;
- To improve community preparedness by improving the credibility of neighbor-to-neighbor information;
- To enhance the preparedness of their neighborhoods for disasters and enhance their resilience to crisis situations;
- To support the community's public safety efforts through door-door public fire and life safety education and awareness campaigns and
- To assist during and after disasters when called upon to do so. These EPWP participants also do door to door campaign every season to educate and warn community members living in the informal settlements about the hazards and disasters and to prepare and protect themselves.

"The CERT members are doing massive work in informal settlements when an emergency, disaster occurs; particularly when Fire and Emergency personnel are not immediately available. They assist treating people in the immediate area, reducing immediate dangers by evacuating the area, and helping others. They have proven themselves to be an active and vital part of their communities," Rudolph pointed out.

He added that another importance of CERT is to link up informal communities with the municipality's fire and emergency stations.

The Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality has 119 registered informal settlements that are a linkage to fire stations. "There will be a minimum of five CERT members (EPWP participants) at every informal settlement depending on their sizes" said Rudolph. Participants are also attending in-house training that assist them to execute their duties of keeping their communities safe.

Training programmes suggested by the municipality's Emergency Department that will be resourceful to the team include:

- **Basic Hazardous Material Awareness**
- **Fire Safety & Fire Suppression**
- **First Aid**
- **General Safety around their communities**
- **Disaster Preparedness and Response**
- **Public Education**

EPWP IMPROVES THE HEALTH OF VILLAGERS IN LIMPOPO

By Michael Mokoena



“GOVERNMENT’S programmes such as the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) have made it possible for the people of the villages in the Ramotshinyadi in Limpopo Province to holistically fight the scourge of HIV/Aids. There was a time in this community where parents would die at the hands of this disease and leave children and families devastated. Today however, because of Government interventions such as EPWP, we are starting to see positive outcomes in the fight against HIV/Aids in our communities”.

The above statement was made by Mr Nemalamangwa Fhatuwani, the Director of Ramotshinyadi HIV/Aids Youth Guide, a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) that is working with the Limpopo Provincial Departments of Health and of Social Development to fight against HIV/Aids in the villages of Ramotshinyadi.

He explained that the organisation was established in 2001 and seven years later – in 2008 – it started participating in EPWP.

“When we started, the organisation was only focused at creating awareness around HIV/Aids and its impact in our community. We were using dramatic arts to spread the message across to the people. However after realising that some of the community members we were speaking to were already HIV positive, we started to incorporate the Home Community Based Care (HCBC) service,” Fhatuwani said.

He pointed out that since majority of adults in the area were getting very ill and were also dying in numbers as a result of the virus; there emerged another challenge of the mushrooming of child headed households.

“Parents were no longer able to care of their children because they were too ill or some of them passed away. As a result of this

challenge, we decided to establish a drop-in-centre at our facility, where children could be cared for and given food and even be helped with afterschool care.” Fhatuwani said.

He said that EPWP has helped a lot in ensuring that the organisation recruits – on a temporary basis -and train people to perform the services that it offers.

He explained that the organisation has 45 EPWP caregivers (participants) who help the NPO to achieve its function of offering services to thousands of community members in the area.

“The total of 43 caregivers perform a range of community based care services including, home visits, homework supervision, mass sport participation and even conduct HIV Counselling and Testing. These participants fall under the Department of Health and receive their monthly stipend from, this department,” Fhatuwani stated.

Two of the caregivers are under the Department of Social Development. All the EPWP caregivers receive a monthly stipend of R1 411.

“In addition to the 45 caregivers we also have two EPWP participants who work as cooks at the centre,” Fhatuwani added. The two cooks prepare food for the children that the drop-in centre looks after.

The drop-in-centre looks after over 100 school going children who are in the ages of 6 to 18 years.

“These children come to the centre in the morning and are given breakfast. They also come back after school where they receive lunch. They are then assisted with their school work and participate in extramural activities such as working in our food garden”
“The food that we grow in our garden is the one that we cook for them. When there’s a surplus, we give these children to cook and eat at home,” Fhatuwani adds.

Training for EPWP Participants

Fhatuwani and the organisation’s Finance and Admin Officer, Ms Miyelani Ndindani speak passionately about the EPWP training given to the participants.

“We are working with both departments and the service provider Nchebeko Skills Consultancy to provide training to the participants. The courses that participants attend vary from auxiliary medical programme, mathematics to communication skills,” Ndindani said.

She explained that the type of training given to the participants was aimed at capacitating them (participants) to be in a position to effectively perform their work in the organisation.

At the time EPWP communications visited the project, most of the participants were doing fieldwork in the community.

However the cooks at the centre did have an opportunity to express their feelings regarding the programme.

“We thank the Government for giving us an opportunity to earn a monthly stipend through this programme. There is high

unemployment levels in this area and for us, Public Employment Programmes has saved us,” Flora Motswi said.

She indicated that she joined the organisation in a few years ago and “it’s been an amazing experience”.

Fhatuwani added that the community played a role in the appointment of participants to the organisation.

“We use various NPOs as well as community structures to recruit the participants,” he said.

Fhatuwani however did mention that there were still some challenges with the programme particularly in relation to the recruitment of young people.

“I think we can attract youth by providing them with skills that are relevant to the market demand,” he added.



EPWP EMBARK ON A DRIVE TO REACH OUT TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

By Tshuluzi Nkoana

AS PART of the Department’s drive to make Government programmes more accessible to communities, the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Non-State Sector in partnership with Gender Unit hosted a workshop for People living with disability at Disaster Centre in Tzaneen.

According to Mr Thomas Dzivhani, EPWP Programme Manager in the Polokwane Regional Office in Limpopo the workshop shows efforts by the EPWP to increase participation of People With Disability (PWD) in the programme. The workshop was also aimed at finding strategies to improve participation of PWD within the sector. The workshop follows the clarion call by Public Works Minister T W Nxesi to increase the participation of people with disability, as they have a bigger role to play in the sector and the Programme.”

In his presentation during the workshop, the EPWP Non-state Sector Director, Mr Ndivhuwo Mulaudzi remarked: “In delivering

upon our mandate, we must ensure that all our citizens have access to services and benefit from all government programmes. The Department of Public Works has identified a need to develop Disability Policy Guidelines to ensure that all Government buildings are accessible and user-friendly for the people with disability. In an effort to upscale accessibility of Government programmes, the Department has taken a conscious decision to provide training to people with disability on how the supply chain works. The Department has further increased beneficitation of people with disability in our programmes and projects.”

Acting Mayor of Greater Letaba Municipality, Ms Maria Sibiya applauded the Department for coming up with such initiatives. She spoke against discrimination of disable people in government programmes, “Every person with disability is able to do something and should therefore be given a chance as they can add value to EPWP,” she said.

EPWP PHARMACY ASSISTANT LEARNERSHIP GETS UNDERWAY

By Michael Mokoena



In a bid to improve the quality of health services delivered to communities in Gauteng, the Government, through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), is currently training 40 young people in pharmacy assistant learnership programme.

Upon graduation these young people will be placed at various Government hospitals, clinics and even in private institution such as Clicks Pharmacy and Dischem to assist in the dispensary of medicines to the patients in the Province.

The 12 month training programme which started in April 2015 is an initiative by the Gauteng Department of Health. The National Department of Public Works is the coordinator of the programme.

Upon completion of the programme these youngsters will have a National Certificate in Pharmacist Assistant. The course is offered by the Foundation for Professional Development (FPD) which is accredited by the Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority (HWSETA). This course is at National Qualification Framework (NQF) level 3.

"These young people will contribute in our commitment to improving the delivery of health services to our patients. For instance due to the stigma attached to HIV/Aids some of our people do not want to go to clinics to get their medication. These young people will assist the Department in taking medication to these patients in their communities and in their homes," Ms Barbara Dladla of the Gauteng District Health Services said.

Speaking on the side-line of the induction of these learners held on 15 April 2015 at the Chamber of Mines Building in Marshalltown in Johannesburg, Ms Dladla explained that the programme was initially

proposed in 2009 when the Department noted a challenge in the roll out of Antiretroviral (ARV) drugs to HIV positive patients in the Province.

"We had a serious shortage of pharmacists at the time. So we decided to train our community health care workers to become pharmacy assistants in an effort to reinforce our work of dispensing medication to our patients. Most of these community health care workers are attached to various Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) that are already involved in rendering community health services within the Province," she explained.

The Director of EPWP Beneficiary Training, Ms Cinderella Makunike urged the EPWP participants to work hard to ensure that they graduated.

"We respect you for being part of EPWP. I can clearly see that you will be committed to the success of this programme. Please respect and take full advantage of this opportunity to make your lives better. You are the chosen ones because of all the people who are out there are looking for such opportunities, you succeeded in getting into this programme," she added.

"We have EPWP programmes all over the country in various sectors of our society. We have programmes in construction, we have people working in hospitals, we have plumbers, and we even have fire fighters. The EPWP is a huge programme geared at eradicating poverty through creating work opportunities for our people," Ms Makunike said.

She pointed out that the element of training and skills development was critical in the implementation of the EPWP.

"In your case, the Department of Health looked at providing EPWP training that is linked to their core mandate. So they looked at this programme. We (National Department of Public Works) as the EPWP coordinating department sourced funding from the National Department of Higher Education and Training for this EPWP project," Ms Makunike said.

She added that Public Works and the Department of Health worked together to appoint Foundation for Professional Development (FPD) as the service provider of the learnership programme.

Ms Dladla said that since the programme started, over 365 community health workers have been trained in pharmacy assistant and that they were currently placed at local clinics and in hospitals across the Province.

She said that the lack of pharmacy tutors in Government had resulted in the Department looking for a public private partnership with institutions such as Dischem and Clicks.

"These tutors are responsible for on the job training for our pharmacy assistant trainees. Our partnership with these private sector organisations allow us to place these young trainees with them," she indicated.

Dladla said that although these private institutions are not obliged to permanently employ the trainees, the practical training the learners were receiving was adding value in the production of highly qualified pharmacy assistants.

"In fact these trainees will be permanently employed in the Government as and when there are vacancies," she added.

Dladla stated that the strategic direction of this programme was to provide learners with training in pharmacy care technician.

"This move however is still at the level of discussion in government,"

The Deputy Director for EPWP Training in Gauteng, Mr Tshifhiwa Nkhumeleni said: "This learnership programme is a milestone for EPWP as it is the first of its nature in the country. It is only Gauteng that is currently implementing it".

EPWP Participants

"We feel honoured to be part of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). We have passion for the programme and the work we are going to do as pharmacy assistants. We know that at the end of 12 months we will graduate and that we will go back to our communities to contribute in rendering health care services and improving quality of the lives of the people," Ntombi Mahlaba and two of her co-trainees Phumzile Sibiya and Lebogang Sekhaolelo said.

"Most of us are currently working as community care givers in our communities through the NGOs we are affiliated to. We have been given an opportunity to become something in life and we will use it wisely," Sibiya said.

Mahlaba added that "with the stipend I'll be getting I'll be able to care for my loved ones".

MsTiyaniArmstrong from Foundation for Professional Development (FPD) said that the programme was aimed at developing skills in the health sector.

"Upon successful completion of this programme these young people will be able to work in a pharmacy as pharmacy assistants.

They will not be pharmacists and they cannot work independently. The 1 year training will cover both theory and practical work. Eighty (80) percent of the time will be spent doing practical training at the facilities where they will be placed while twenty (20) percent of the programme will take place in class," she said.

Armstrong explained that the learners would have to cover eleven (11) modules in the period of 12 months. "The modules are linked to different components of what a pharmacist does. With every module they will have an examination, contact session and a portfolio/project to complete. Those projects get signed off by the learners' tutor at the facility where they are placed," she said.

Armstrong added that these EPWP participants will be placed with pharmacists that have tutors who are registered with the SAPC. This EPWP pharmacy assistant learnership programme started on 20 April 2015.



EPWP'S VISION OF IMPROVING THE LIVES OF OUR COMMUNITIES THROUGH PROMOTING AND ASSISTING SMALL BUSINESSES IS ALIVE: EPWP CONTRACTOR



"IN 2005 I was a learner contractor on the National Department of Public Works' Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Vuk'uphile Learnership Programme. I was 23 years old at the time. Today (13 March 2015) I am a conventional contractor whose company turns 10 years old. I am a living proof that EPWP's vision of improving our communities and transforming the construction and the built environment in our country is alive," the founder and owner of Umvezi Contractor CC Ms. Kholeka Veronica Jonas said.

She pauses and smiles broadly.

"Today I have exited from the Vuk'uphile programme and I'm now competing with big companies for multi-million rand civil construction contracts. I'm grateful and humble to be where I am today. I thank EPWP for believing in me and for giving me the opportunity to reach my full potential," Jonas adds.

She was speaking at her 10 year business anniversary party held on 13 March 2015 in Bloemfontein in the Free State.

"I'm hosting this party to say thank you to all who participated in shaping my journey to where my company is today. I thank my family, friends, the Government through EPWP, the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, workers in my company and all people I've worked and walked with me in this wonderful journey," she said.

Jonas is one of the successful and hardworking black business women who was identified and assisted by Vuku'phile to set up and grow her civil construction company.

She is the sole owner of Umvezi Contractors CC- a civil construction company that participates in government construction projects. The Vuk'uphile Learnership Programme is an EPWP contractor development programme that is implemented by the National Department of Public Works.

Jonas entered the Vuk'uphile Learnership Programme as a student from the Central University of Technology, for purposes of undertaking her experiential learning, a requirement to complete her National Diploma in Civil Engineering studies. She founded Umvezi Contractors around this time.

"EPWP gave me practical training on what I had learned at the university. In fact I would not have graduated had it not been for EPWP opening up its doors and providing me with practical training," Jonas pointed out.

She added that EPWP provided her with a broad training field including project management, tender processes, production management and the entire operational issues relating to civil engineering and building projects.

Jonas' company was awarded and completed civil and building projects to the value of R37.5m, and this accounts for its current Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) status of 6CE PE and 3GB PE.

"This notable achievement is a living testimony of governments' commitment to transform the construction industry and the empowerment of women in construction. The Government and indeed EPWP have a very good story to tell. It's a story of hope and success," Jonas adds.

Today Jonas' company also offers both permanent and temporary work to not less than 50 young people in the Free State province.

Currently, under the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, Umvezi Contractors, is executing civil construction projects to the value of R12.3million which are nearing completion.

The EPWP Director for Vuk'uphile Mr. Thembani Mackaukau wished Jonas and her company the best for the future.

"We are pleased that the work that we do as EPWP leads to the development of our people. We are proud of Jonas' work and wish her many more successful years," he said.

Mackaukau quoted the 2013 statistics on small businesses that were released by Minister of Trade and Industry Mr. Rob Davies.

'Five out of seven (71%) small businesses started in South Africa will close down in the first year,' the Minister had said at the time.

Mackaukau said that the fact that Jonas' business had a mainstay of 10 years was "a proud moment for EPWP".

Speaker after speaker at the event congratulated Jonas for her business and wished her well for the future.

Some of the projects that Umvezi Contractors has completed in the Free State include the upgrading of roads and stormwater drains in Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, the construction of road and stormwater drainage, the repair to tar road, construction of paving road, the construction of street in cemetery in South Park, the upgrading of a road and stormwater drains in Botshabelo.

EPWP TRAINING PARTNERS WITH SETA'S

By Godfrey Maphanga

South Africa has long been challenged by low productivity in the workplace due to inadequate skills for those already in the labour market, hence The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Phase 3 has identified the provision of training to participants as critical. The main goal is to enhance their skills so that they can function productively in the workplace, find alternate market related jobs, undertake further training or start small businesses beyond the EPWP projects.

In ensuring the achievement of this goal, the EPWP Training received limited funding from the National Skills Fund (NSF) and also from the Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETA's) discretionary grants. With all the sourced funding, the EPWP Training endeavored to provide training to the EPWP Participants in the form of Skills programmes, Learnership Programme and Apprenticeship Training Programme, as accredited and quality assured by the SETA's and other Education and Training Quality Assurance bodies (ETQA's).

Recently the EPWP Training has partnered with the The Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport Sector Education and Training Authority (CATHSSETA), The Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (merSETA) and Agriculture Sector Education and Training Authority (AgriSETA), to assist with procurement of accredited training providers, implementation of training and quality assurance of the EPWP various training programmes to the EPWP Participants across the country.

The National Skills Development Strategy III (NSDSIII) assures that the "SETAs are indeed the recognized experts in relation to skills demand within their sector and the real value to be added by SETAs is their understanding of labour market issues in their respective industrial and economic sectors".

With this partnership initiative between the EPWP training and SETA's; the AgriSETA is implementing Learnerships for One hundred and twenty (120) EPWP participants on animal production, poultry production etc.; and Skills Programme to Two thousand five hundred and twenty one (2 521) EPWP participants on horticulture, plant production etc. The CATHSSETA is implementing skills Programme to One thousand one hundred and seventy (1 170) EPWP participants on public area cleaning, culture site guide, craft production, sports coaching etc.

Meanwhile, the Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector and Education Training Authority (merSETA) is implementing the Apprenticeship Training Programme on various trades i.e. electricians, diesel mechanic, boilermakers etc.; to (One hundred and nine (109) EPWP participants. The merSETA has identified well established and registered employers /companies where 89 EPWP participants have already been placed for the 3-year duration of the programme for theoretical, practical and workplace learning in companies like i.e. VW SA, Mazda SA, Toyota SA, Murray and Roberts, Genrec and Mercedes Benz SA etc across the country.

This strong partnership of the EPWP Training with the SETAs will ensure that quality training is provided to all the EPWP participants as the SETA's are the well-recognized subject matter experts in skills development and quality assurance of training. This will benefit the EPWP Training at large; and the SETA's will ensure that all EPWP workplaces are approved, accredited training providers are appointed, training is delivered and monitored as per SETA quality assurance principles and the EPWP participants receive statement of results/ credits or competency certificates after successful completion of training. This partnership has been well acknowledged by the various SETAs and the EPWP Training is looking forward towards the success of this strategic partnership!

CITY OF JOBURG TO UPSCALE EPWP IMPLEMENTATION

By: Lesego Moretlwe

City of Joburg has set aside a budget of over 1 billion for the implementation of the Jozi@work programme and the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) within the next five years of the EPWP Phase 3 which ends in April 2019. This was according to the executive mayor of City of Joburg, Councillor Parks Tau during the launch of the EPWP Phase 3 in Johannesburg on 15 April 2015.

In an effort to upscale the implementation of the EPWP with the emphasis to alleviate poverty and unemployment, The City has indicated the establishment of regional forums as one of the platforms envisaged to enhance the effective implementation of the Programme.

The EPWP is a government initiative aimed at alleviating poverty and unemployment through the provision of work opportunities to the poor, unskilled and unemployed South Africans.

The objective of the EPWP phase 3 is to provide work opportunities and income support to poor and unemployed people through labour intensive delivery of public and community assets and services, thereby contributing to development.

When he addressed the delegates, Public Works Deputy Minister, Jeremy Cronin cited the lessons learnt from EPWP Phase 1 & 2 as follows:

- Achieve better balance between work opportunities, head counts and other outcomes impact on communities
- Clarify the key objectives of a particular programme in terms of income relief, skills development and provision of assets and services.
- Evaluation of post participation outcomes for beneficiaries
- Emphasis should be more on Infrastructure maintenance to promote local work
- Full time equivalence evaluation on assets and services produced.

The launch encompassed four projects visits as part of engaging with EPWP participants as well as profiling three Jozi@ work projects and the Johannesburg Metro Police Department (JMPD) EPWP project which were in Soweto Protea and Braamfontein respectively. The City highlighted that it intends to return to its principle of 'every project an EPWP project'.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HANDS OVER R2 MILLION RENOVATED COMMUNITY PARK TO THE COMMUNITY OF VRYBURG

By Michael Mokoena



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) has been able to uplift the socio-economic lives of the people of Vryburg through creating work opportunities and boosting local small businesses during the renovation of the Hayes Community Park, the EPWP Chief Director of Operations Ms Kelebogile Sethibelo said.

Speaking at the joint departmental event to handover a R2 million renovated community park to the Naledi Local Municipality in Vryburg on 10 April 2015, Ms Sethibelo said that a total of 45 young people were employed during the renovation of Hayes Park.

"All the service providers that contributed in the renovation of this park were local small businesses. This means that through EPWP, The National Department of Public Works was able to boost local economic development," she said.

Explaining the amount of work that was done during renovation, Ms Sethibelo said: "The work we did during renovation include fencing the park, renovating the existing ablution facilities and building new ones. We also paved the park, installed an irrigation system, and built a fountain and recreational area for the children."

She pointed out that moving forward, 20 local people would be appointed through EPWP to maintain the park.

"For the EPWP participants who were part of the renovation of this park, we will look at the possibility of training them in various crafts such as horticulture so that they can be in a position to continue to make a living for themselves," Sethibelo added.

She said the park would also have a cafeteria which will serve the public.

The event was also used to unveil the sculpture of struggle icon the late Mme Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti which is mounted at the park.

The high profile event was attended by senior government leaders who included the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans Mr Kebby Maphatsoe, the Premier of North West Province Mr Supra Mahumapelo, Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti, and Cabinet members of the North West Province as well as leaders of local and district municipalities.

Mme Ruth Mompoti died on 12 May 2015 at the age of 89. The project to renovate the park was overseen by the Independent Development Trust (IDT).

IDT's Simon Kombe said that before renovation, the park had been vandalised and was in a bad state.

Mr Kombe managed the renovation project.

"The National Department of Public Works commissioned IDT to execute the task of upgrading the park. The park has benefited the community a lot. Seven service providers were sourced to do different tasks here. The tasks within the renovation scope included fencing, paving the walk path and landscaping," he explained.

Mr Kombe said that the people of Vryburg were grateful for the park because it was Government's direct contribution to the fight against poverty in the area.

"The park has been a poverty alleviation project in this community as it was able to create local work opportunities and boost the local economy but it also created and harnessed skills of the people. For instance some of the young people who participated in this renovation programme today have skills in landscaping," he said.

He added that the 20 EPWP participants who will be appointed to maintain the park would also be assisted with ongoing training.

Participants

"Today (10 April 2015) is a wonderful day for the people of Vryburg and for EPWP because the work that we started about two years ago is finally completed. When we started with this process the park was in a very dilapidated state. There were bushes all over and it was in a mess. But today we have a magnificent looking community asset. As EPWP participants who worked on this project, we are all proud of this asset," Maseako Tshitlho said.

Tshitlho, 26, added that "I thank EPWP for giving me this opportunity. The stipend I received from this project afforded me an opportunity to look after my family. EPWP has changed my life for the better," She added that among a range of skills that she learned from the project included plumbing, and landscaping.

"Although I'd love to stay on this programme and learn even more, I believe that I can be able to survive on my own with the skills that I have learned in EPWP," Tshitlho added.

For Godfrey Moje, being part of EPWP has restored his dignity.

"I'm now able to contribute to the betterment of our community through my work. On a personal level, the stipend I received from this project has assisted me to provide for my family," he added.

He too has acquired skills in irrigation and landscaping from this project.

KWAZULU NATAL PROVINCE LAUNCH EPWP PHASE 3

By Michael Mokoena



He was one of many community members who braved the early morning heat to queue outside the stadium— hours before the event could start.

“We are all excited about this launch. There is high unemployment rate in our community and through EPWP, the Government has shown that it cares about us. The Government is also displaying that they are interested in developing small townships and we appreciate that,” another community member, Thulani Mlangeni added.

When the event formally got underway, Premier Mchunu paid his tribute to the late Minister of Public Service and Administration Mr Collins Chabane.

Minister Chabane and two of his bodyguards died on Sunday 15 March 2015 in Limpopo Province when the vehicle they were travelling in crashed with a truck that allegedly did a U-turn in the middle of the highway.

Earlier during the day, Premier Mchunu, his Cabinet members including the MEC for Department of Public Works Mr Ravy Pillay, the MEC for Cooperative Governance, and Traditional Affairs (Gogta) Ms Nomsa Dube-Ncube, the MEC for Health Ms Peggy Nkonyeni and the MEC for Finance Ms Belinda Scott visited three EPWP sites to interact with the participants and to witness how successful EPWP projects were in the area.

The entourage visited Richmond License Testing Centre which was built by EPWP participants and later they interacted with the participants at both the Zibambele Road Maintenance Programme and at a site where the Government's Community War Room was being built.

“We are happy with the training and work opportunities that have been given to us by EPWP. Today we are better people. We are confident that when this project ends many of us will be in a position to find employment and even open companies because of the skills we have received here,” Thandazile Phoswa said.



RICHMOND in KwaZulu Natal was painted orange on 20 March 2015 as thousands of community members and Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants descended on the town for the provincial launch of EPWP Phase 3.

Led by the Province's number one citizen, Premier Senzo Mchunu and his Cabinet, the orange clad community members gathered at the Slahla Stadium where the event was held.

“Today (20 March 2015) is a special day for us in Richmond. We are special because the Government decided to launch the Province's EPWP Phase 3 here. Hope is being restored in all of us because our children will now get jobs. Hunger in our homes is a thing of the past now that we have EPWP,” a community member Mr Jabulani Mahlangu said.



Phoswa is one of the 95 young people who are part of EPWP's National Youth Service (NYS) programme to build the Community War Room and this programme is implemented by the Province's Department of Public Works. Upon completion, this asset will improve the lives of the people of Richmond as it will be a Government centre aimed at fast-tracking government services to the communities around Richmond.

"These projects are indeed a reflection of the important function played by EPWP to make a tangible and an immediate contribution in the upliftment of the lives of the people of our Province. EPWP is not only eradicating poverty and unemployment in our communities, the programme is also about the development of our communities," Mchunu said.

The EPWP participants who attended the event praised EPWP for having improved their lives.

"Viva EPWP Viva! Thuthuka Richmond Thuthuka! (Develop Richmond! Develop!)" Nhlakanipho Sithole shouted as he raised his clenched fist in the air.

The crowd reverberated with jubilation as Sithole spoke. "We welcome the decision by the Government to launch the provincial EPWP Phase 3 in Richmond. We are hopeful that many of us will get work and training opportunities from these projects," he said.

He urged all South Africans to have hope in the Government's Public Employment Programmes (PEPs) that were aimed at alleviating unemployment and poverty.

"People who have not yet found work must remain hopeful because tomorrow they too will get jobs," he added.

Thabile Hlongwane, an EPWP participant said that "EPWP has changed my life for the better".

"A total of 1000 young people from my municipality have been given training in various accredited skills including plumbing, and artisan through this project. Our lives have improved for the better. We are also able to look after our families with the monthly stipend we are receiving," she added.

Mchunu said that the testimonies by the EPWP participant displayed the country's good stories.

"In fact what we have here is a unique marriage between the Government and the people. Only death will end our marriage because it is entrenched deep in our hearts. This Government loves you and it will do its best to ensure that it improves your lives," he said.

Premier Mchunu committed his administration to the EPWP Phase 3 targets of creating a total of 725 340 work opportunities and 280 062 full time equivalent by 2019.

The Premier led a delegation of his cabinet and the mayors of the various municipalities who were part of the event in the signing of a pledge which committed the Provincial Government to the achievements of the objective of the EPWP Phase 3.

Richmond

A brief synopsis on the performance of EPWP Phase 3 in Richmond showed that, during quarter 3 of 2014, there were 48 EPWP projects reported in the (Richmond) municipality across all sectors with the highest number of projects being in the Infrastructure and Environment Sector.

EPWP KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT TO IMPROVE AND PRESERVE EPWP'S INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY

By Michael Mokoena



IN AN effort to better coordinate, preserve and share knowledge and information on the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), Government entities that are implementing EPWP have established an EPWP Knowledge Management as a key function of EPWP.

This Knowledge Management function will be led by a recently established EPWP Knowledge Management Committee (EPWP-KMC). The EPWP-KMC is a structure made up of various National Government Departments including Public Works, Social Development, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) as well as the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). Provincial Government and sector nominees are also represented in this committee. EPWP – KMC is a governance structure aimed at facilitating and streamlining EPWP knowledge management across all sectors that are implementing the programme.

Although the EPWP Knowledge Management (KM) function will be led by EPWP directorate in the National Department of Public Works, its work will be executed by the EPWP-KMC.

This committee will execute EPWP Knowledge Management function which includes, establishing and operating the EPWP central repository or information bank.

The EPWP central repository will allow for the storage of all EPWP information, documents, raw data and knowledge.

The Chief Director of EPWP Partnership Support Ms Carmen-Joy Abrahams believes that senior government officials who are doing

work in EPWP should be able to access this central repository from anywhere in the world.

“Officials should be able to log onto this central repository and contribute information and data on EPWP,” Abrahams told a recent committee meeting held at the EPWP head office in Pretoria.

Ms Abrahams has led several EPWP-KMC meetings held at the EPWP head office in Pretoria with the aim of moving the work of this committee forward. At one of the meetings, Abrahams said that EPWP-KMC had to ensure that the EPWP information is translated into knowledge that has to be preserved in order to improve service delivery, by ensuring that information is retrieved faster when needed.

“This will assist with avoiding the re-invention of the wheel, thus creating a knowledge legacy for EPWP. The EPWP-KMC is seen to be an essential enabling vehicle for transitioning EPWP from its current state into a programme that is vibrant in terms of its knowledge management elements,” she added.

Objectives of EPWP – KMC

“The rationale for establishing the EPWP-KMC is to ensure a well-coordinated and common knowledge management approach and to provide guidance and advice on strategies for a sound implementation of knowledge management across the spheres and sectors,” Abrahams remarked.

She said that the committee would also “create a platform for knowledge sharing and encourage convergence with functions that have knowledge management sub-objectives.”

“The KM programme will cater for seamless coordination and preservation of knowledge within and across various EPWP sub-programmes,” Abrahams added.

The EPWP-KMC has been tasked with numerous functions and responsibilities including the formulation of a comprehensive EPWP KM Framework and later a KM Strategy.

“We need to lead the provincial and sectoral consultative engagements and feedback process required for the approval of the KM Framework. We must also advocate the KM Framework across sectors and spheres, develop and map out KM processes, for example, incentive management business process or National Youth Service programme (NYS) implementation,” Abrahams said.

Other deliverables for this committee include the development of targets and an implementation plan for the mapping of KM processes.

The documents on EPWP-KMC further mandate the committee to link and align the work products of various directorates and EPWP support organizations with knowledge management purposes, with the aim to promote synergies across the following functional areas:

- International Labour Organisation (ILO) through own research undertaken;
- Independent Development Trust (IDT) in terms of the EPWP/ IDT support programme;
- Evaluations Directorate through the evaluation and research studies conducted;
- Data Quality Directorate through data quality surveys conducted; and
- Communication and Public Relations Directorate through its website development responsibility, event coordination, advertorials and editorials.

Outcomes of the EPWP-KMC

The key outcomes expected from the undertakings of EPWP-KMC include:

- **Informed and integrated planning;**
- **Synchronised communication and collaboration;**
- **Easy access to information;**
- **Quick and fast knowledge sharing;**
- **Improved operational excellence; and**
- **Better and informed decision making processes.**



GALLERY

