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Government's Public Employment Programmes (PEPs) empower our people: Deputy President Ramaphosa

By Michael Mokoena
Pictures by Khanyisa Moagi



Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa says the participants' confidence about the government's Public Employment Programmes (PEPs) was evidence of the empowerment role the Programmes played in the lives of South Africans.

Speaking during the Public Employment Programme Inter Ministerial Committee (PEP-IMC) event in Kimberley on 22 April 2016, Deputy President Ramaphosa said that "the government's PEP projects are empowering as they give participants, training and formal work".

Deputy President Ramaphosa had earlier toured Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) sites in Kuruman in the Northern Cape. The PEPs in South Africa are implemented through EPWP.

The PEP-IMC event in the Northern Cape was implemented in a two pronged approach with Deputy President Ramaphosa and the Premier of the Northern Cape Ms Sylvia Lucas visiting EPWP projects in Kuruman and other Cabinet Ministers touring projects in Kimberley.

The Ministers who visited EPWP projects included the Deputy Minister of Public Works Jeremy Cronin, Minister of Small Business Development Ms Lindiwe Zulu, and Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Mr Andries Nel and the Minister of Labour, Ms Mildred Oliphant. The Ministers visited these following projects: Root-out-Dust project in Green Point, School Support project and Community Safety Project in Galeshewe.

Speaking to journalists at the Root-out-Dust project, Minister Zulu said that government had to explore methods to involve tertiary students in the implementation of the EPWP projects.

"I have seen young people in Cape Town who are studying at colleges in that city contributing their skills in the delivery of government services. This project (the EPWP Root-out-Dust) should also be an opportunity for our students who are studying Surveying at Technical Vocational Education and Training colleges in this area to come here and contribute their surveying skills," Minister Zulu said.

Minister Zulu continued to say that the EPWP project should seek not only to employ the participants, but promote them to play an active role in the economy. Minister Oliphant said that she was impressed by the social sector projects and suggested that the projects be replicated nationally.

Deputy Minister Nel raised a number of points including the need to improve the quality of management of the projects.

The Root-out-Dust Project

The EPWP street paving project in Greenpoint is implemented by the Northern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works. The project forms part of the Department's Root-out-Dust (ROD) Programme. The paving is currently taking place in Mohosh Street (in Greenpoint),



which is one of the gravel streets in the area. The activities taking place on the site include road earth works, pavement layerworks, road surfacing (concrete segmented paving blocks) and the provision of storm water infrastructure.

Since the project started on 01 October 2014, it has created 25 work opportunities. A total of seven of people employed in the project are

women and all eleven of the total number of participants are young people. The participants earn a daily wage of R85 and they work for 22 days per month.

The project is funded by the Northern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works and its total budget is R1 500 000.

All the participants will soon receive accredited training on paving and kerb laying.



Roads Directorate within the Department of Roads and Public Works provide the technical (design, construction and project management) support.

Sol Plaatje Local Municipality's role includes the provision of project design approvals and the provision of design specifications, norms and standards to be adhered to, as well as being the custodian of the asset (road) created. At a governmental level, the project has strengthened the inter-governmental relations in the Province.



Contribution of the Project in the lives of residents

The project is moving the lives of the residents forward in various ways including lifting them out of poverty through the work opportunities created. The project has created work opportunities for the poor, unskilled and unemployed local people who have yet to fully enjoy the benefits of economic development. There's income support to the poor households in the area. The project also contributes to the skills transfer to unskilled local labourers (EPWP participants).

The residents in Greenpoint are benefiting from the upgrading of their roads infrastructure from gravel roads to paved roads.

The new road will not only enable economic vibrancy in the area, but would also provide residents with easy access to social amenities such as schools, clinics and shops.

The provincial Department of Roads and Public Works is working with the Sol Plaatje Local Municipality to implement the project. The

The project is expected to be completed by 31 August 2016.

Challenges that were raised by the Provincial government to Deputy President Ramaphosa and his team of Ministers included community awareness in terms of public safety during the construction period.

The Province urged the Deputy President to create a platform for the building of greater stakeholder relations and to enforce partnership between the government and the private sector.

The delegation also visited the EPWP National Youth Service (NYS) School Support Programme that is implemented by the Northern Cape Department of Education. The programme assist in the delivery of quality education at schools in the District by removing the administration burden from the teachers and placing these functions with the non-teaching staff. This programme has created work opportunities for 20 non-teaching persons at schools across the Frances Baard District (Kimberley surroundings).



EPWP brings community participation in the fight against crime

By Michael Mokoena

Pictures by Khanyisa Moagi



The Northern Cape Government is utilising the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) to bring community participation in the fight against crime in the Province. Through the Northern Cape Department of Transport, Safety and Liaison, the provincial government is implementing the EPWP Safety Volunteers – a community volunteer project which works with various stakeholders to implement crime fighting programmes in the Province.

On 22 April 2016 a high-level delegation of Cabinet Ministers visited this project (EPWP Safety Volunteers) to highlight the work done by this project in the government's effort to involve the communities in the crime fighting activities. The Ministers' visit to the project was part of the Public Employment Programme InterMinisterial Committee (PEP-IMC) event in the Province.

The Project

The participants in the project work with the police, community police forums, and other social partners to implement the Province's Social Crime Prevention Programmes. Activities executed by the project include implementing programmes to stop violence against women, children and youth; mobilise the community against crime; execute road safety and transport operations programmes; combat substance abuse; execute the Province's Reclaim Our Streets campaign; create awareness campaigns of the municipal by-laws and execute other community safety activities.

The project has created a total of 3 277 work opportunities since it started in 2014. To ensure that the communities in the Province "are and feel safe", the Northern Cape Department of Transport, Safety and Liaison, trained 75 participants on Community Safety.

The participants earn a daily wage of R84.00 to a maximum of R115.00 per person a day. The participants work 21 days per month.

The project is funded by the National Department of Public Works through the Incentive Grant.

The Northern Cape Government, through the Department of Transport, Safety and Liaison, are working with various community partners to ensure the implementation and the success of the EPWP Safety Volunteers. The community partners include, the South African Police Services, Department of Social Development, Community Police Forums, Community Safety Forums, Women against Crime, Youth against Crime, Business against Crime, NGO's / CBO's, NICRO, Inter-Faith organisations, South African National Taxi Council (Santaco), the Northern Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Nocci), National African Federation Chamber of Commerce (Nafcoc), Black Management Forum, Life Line / Children's Line and Grass Root Soccer.



Challenges that were highlighted by the Province to Cabinet Ministers around the projects, included lack of training for the participants, receiving buy-in from the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster with some police station not coming on board, victimisation of participants in the communities – participants are labelled izimpimpis (informers), lack of partnership with various training institutions and recruitment agencies, lack of permanent placements of participants, no exit strategy as well as lack of measuring tools to measure the impact of the programme.



Soncoba Umjindi Home Base Care changing lives of communities in Barberton

By Mosima Magashula

Pictures by Mosima Magashula

Soncoba Umjindi Home Base Care (SUHBC), is found in Barberton Township, which is situated within the Umjindi Local Municipality in Barberton in the Mpumalanga Province. The SUHBC is a registered NPO that was established with the purpose of assisting and supporting people infected and affected by HIV/Aids, other chronic illness and disabilities. The goal of the NPO is to give hope through appropriate care to the affected individuals and their families in order to maintain their independence and achieve the best possible quality of life.

The NPO also provide community members with basic nursing care, counselling and provision of nutritious meal prepared out of the produce from the gardening project. Through implementation of these programmes the organization aims at preventing the spread of HIV/ AIDS and to create awareness about the disease.

The total number of EPWP work opportunities target for the financial year 2015/16 was 396. The participant's equity target consisted of 176 women, 120 youth and 05 people with disabilities.

• Pine Gel, Vaseline, Polish and Charcoal Production

- the participants placed under this activity are involved in the production of aloe products such as vaseline, gel and polish. This products are made out of the aloe plants which are harvested from the nearest mountain. The final products are sold to the general public to generate income which is saved to fund the expansion and sustainability plan of the organization.

EPWP (NSS) Financial Support

The SUHBC has signed a three year performance implementation contract which commenced from 2014/15 financial year and was scheduled to end on the 31 March 2016/17. For this current financial year, the NPO has been allocated a total budget of R4 051 555.00 to create a total number of 396 EPWP work opportunities. This total budget includes participants Wage Subsidy, NPO Administration Cost, Participants Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act (COIDA) and Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) contribution.



EPWP: NSS NPO Programme Activities

SUHBC is engaging the EPWP Non State Sector (NSS) participants through the implementation of the following projects and activities:

- **Gardening** – the participants are involved in planting and maintaining of vegetable gardens. The vegetables produced from the gardens are offered to identified orphans, elderly and chronic illness patients from the local clinic.
- **Waste Management (Cleaning)** - the participants are involved in the cleaning of community facilities such as local schools and graveyards. This initiative provide cleaning services to a total number of 8 schools and 5 graveyards within Umjindi Local Municipality.
- **Art (Sewing of traditional Mats)** - the participants under this activity are involved in the sewing and making of traditional mats which are sold to the general public to generate income for the organization.



Expansion and sustainability plan

The SUHBC has recently started a poultry farming project. They have acquired a 52 acre plot in Umjindi Trust and have employed 10 employees to clean and secure the grounds and build a structure for the chickens.

Achievements

The NPO has won at the EPWP Annual Kamoso Awards for two consecutive years. In 2013 the NPO was nominated the winners for the Best Project, in 2014 It was nominated winners for the Best Best Innovative Project. In 2011, the NPO was nominated as the finalist for the Best Project Category.

EPWP Participants rejoice over the achievement

By Lesego Moretlwe and Mosima Magashula
Pictures by Faith Nonyana and Lerato Moeng



Itekeng Community Centre, is one of the (27) Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) supported by the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Non State Sector – NPO Programme. This NPO is located in Swartruggens within Kgetleng Rivier Local Municipality, (North West Province). The NPO became a centre of events attended by various stakeholders across all spheres of government and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) when 25 EPWP Non-State Sector participants graduated on the specialised field of the Craft Production during the graduations ceremony held on 11 May 2016 at Borolelo Community hall in Swartruggens.

This accredited Craft Production Training was provided by Department of Public Works through the financial training support from the Department of Higher Education and Training (National Skills Fund) and was implemented in partnership with The Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport Sector Education and Training Authority (CATHSSETA) and Zar Ceramicraft supported by the Independent Development Trust (IDT) as the implementing agent of the NSS NPO Programme.

The skills acquired by Learners during this skills development programme will enable them to develop designs for a range of marketable craft products.



The training initiative is part of governments' effort to address the scarce skills shortage in the country in line with the National Skills Strategy (NSDS) thereby enhancing community development. During his address Councillor Thabo Jacobs of Kgetleng Rivier Local Municipality described the event as historic and worth celebration based on numerous poverty related challenges experienced in Swartruggens. He further encouraged the graduates to effectively utilise the skills and experienced acquired during the training and also explore entrepreneur avenues.

In her testimony, one of the graduates, Ms Esther Manicus said "I am delighted to have had an opportunity to be part of EPWP training and having acquired the craft production skills makes me very proud. Today's graduations is major for the community of Borolelo, it is not easy to have all what we want because of limited resources within a small area like Swartruggens but we are happy that the EPWP has offered us the foundation as a stepping stone to build our careers, and this has indeed made a positive impact in our lives, said Ms Manicus.

In her closing remarks, the EPWP Programme Manager in North West, Ms Xoliswa Letsapa congratulated the graduates for their achievement and gave them the life lessons and guidance to always enjoy what they do, explore their abilities and be determined to always strive for bigger goals. Ms Letsapa committed to further offer the 25 participants training on Financial Management through the Financial Services Board (FSB) so that they can be more equipped in terms of business operations. "The managers of Itekeng Community Centre will further receive training on bookkeeping, financial management, Marketing, pricing and costing. This is a commitment from the EPWP to ensure that we provide you with much support that we can, and this will be through the EPWP Enterprise Development" concluded Ms Letsapa.



The training was conducted for 56 days and it is a NQF level 2 with 35 credits and the demographic of which 11 participants are people with disabilities, 9 youth, 20 women and 5 males.

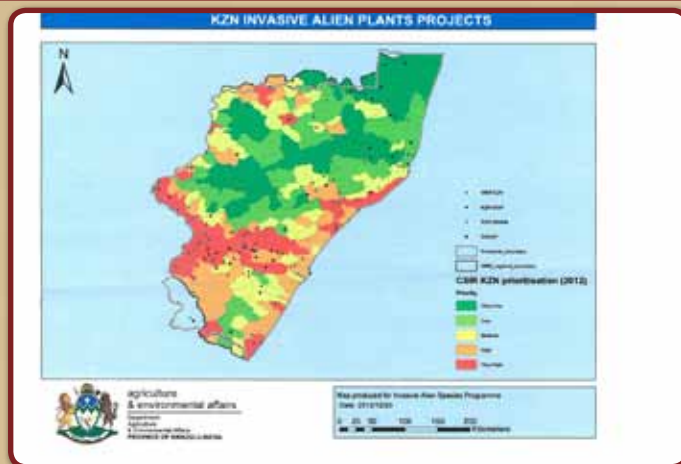
The establishment of Itekeng Community Centre came as a result of the high statistics and deaths caused by HIV / AIDS, which resulted in many child headed families, orphans and poverty. The success of the programme with HIV / AIDS victims encouraged the centre to extend assistance to the poor, and employed people in the local and neighbouring communities through capacity building and other programmes to improve their livelihoods.



Over 10 000 people employed through the EPWP invasive alien species programme in KwaZulu Natal

By Xolani Xulu

Pictures by Xolani Xulu



A total of 10 000 people have been temporarily employed through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Invasive Alien Species Programme (IASP) in KwaZulu Natal during the 2014/2015 financial year. During this period, the participants were responsible for clearing invasive plants on over 150 000 ha of land in the Province. The IASP was initiated in 2006 and it is currently being implemented by the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs.

The IASP employs local people to control invasive species whilst earning a living for their families and being given lifelong skills in areas such as first-aid methods, health and safety, project management, pest control, and other skills. The skills that participants are learning from the IASP can be utilised to secure employment elsewhere, which illustrates the sustainability of the Programme. The Programme uses labour-intensive control methods that provide training and much-needed employment especially in rural areas. The programme mainly employs youth, women and people with disabilities. To execute the work, the participants are given protective clothing, which include first aid kit, working tools such as bush knives, cane knives, axe, poly cans sprayers, knapsack sprays, slashers, danger tap and herbicides.

The biomass resulting from clearing is used in value added industries where affordable coffins are made for destitute families. The efforts of the IASP illustrate the impact of the EPWP in its mandate to alleviating poverty, unemployment and contributing to the development of communities in the Province.

For the 2015/16 financial year, the Programme is planning to clear 16000 hectares of alien plants through its 38 projects, in various wards.

EPWP Compliance

The implementation of the IASP is guided by national EPWP policies and guidelines such as the EPWP Ministerial Determination, EPWP Phase III Framework, Basic Conditions of Employment, Code of Good Conduct and other EPWP regulations. The department conform to four Universal EPWP Phase 3 Principles - participants earn a daily wage of R94 and the participants are registered for Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) and Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act (COIDA).

The IASP is funded through both the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs' Equitable Share and the National Department of Public Works' EPWP Incentive Grant. The project value for 2015/16 was R131 000 000.

The project areas where alien plant clearing activities are implemented are chosen by using a multi criteria decision analysis tool (MCDA) which is a scientific tool that help to ensure that alien plant clearing efforts are concentrated in the threatened agricultural and biodiversity vulnerable areas of the province. The Department has identified project priority areas as informed by the results of the MCDA study. Currently the Department implements 28 projects in all the District municipalities within the province and the plan for 2015/16 financial year is to create 10 465 work opportunities and clear 160 000 hectares of invaded land.

The selection of participants is a critical aspect of the IASP as it involves an assessment that aims at ensuring that the most capable candidates within the community are appointed as emerging contractors. The selection of contractors is undertaken jointly by officials, the local authority (local municipality, local traditional authority representative and where applicable members of a development committee) and an observer (may be an IASP or Department). The local municipality representative (councillors) and development committee may provide a list of local people through a ward database of poor and unemployed families. The department target a minimum of 100 day duration of work for each participant for each financial year. This enable the Department to achieve reasonable Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) for every year.

Training

The IASP considers training very important. The participants receive training according to the Code of Good Practice for Special Public Works Projects and in accordance with the guidelines of the programme. Participants within the programme receive training on the following areas:

- First-aid methods,
- Herbicide applicator
- Health & Safety Standards,
- Project management,
- Pest control

Objective of the programme

The EPWP IASP aims to achieve the following:

- To contribute to the conservation of the ecological integrity of KwaZulu Natal's natural ecosystems through the control and management of invasion by alien species and in creating awareness.
- To use labor intensive techniques to control the existing invasions by invasive alien species, thereby contributing to the restoration and protection of high productive agricultural land, while creating working opportunities for local communities.
- To also contribute to the optimization of both economic and social development opportunities for the communities impacted upon by invasive alien species.

EPWP Phase III introduces sustainable livelihoods through Enterprise Development

By Nomazulu Sibanda

Picture by Nomazulu Sibanda



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is a flagship programme of government aimed at providing work opportunities and income support to poor and unemployed people through the delivery of public and community assets and services.

From the onset of the programme, the EPWP recognised that several implementation models could be employed to create income opportunities, employment and assets/services.

The EPWP Branch has an Enterprise Development (ED) Directorate which provides support to all EPWP sectors to form, develop and sustain enterprises. The key activities of enterprise development are to:

- create work opportunities within the EPWP,
- assist projects to be implemented timeously and correctly,
- ensure that communities are provided with pathways other than employment to increase income; and
- have capacity that will assist in sustaining livelihoods beyond the EPWP.

Given these themes the Enterprise Development Unit in the provinces identify Public Employment Programmes that run projects with a potential of being converted into businesses assisting them with compliance issues, access to markets, capacity building and access to finance. The Enterprise Development (ED) Unit of the National Department of Public Works (NDPW) provide support to all sectors, namely: Social, Infrastructure, Environment and Culture and Non State Sectors including Community Work Programme and public bodies implementing Public Employment Programmes. The unit aims to sustain the growth and development of SMME's.

The unit forges partnerships with various SMME development support Departments and agencies to enhance delivery on its mandate.

The ED Unit in the Northern Cape Province is building SMMEs in various sectors with the aim to make them sustainable.

One of these SMMEs is Mammello Letlotlo Primary Cooperative in Ganspan in the Phokwane Local Municipality. The project was identified by the unit in June 2015 through referral by the Northern Cape Department of Economic Affairs and Tourism (implementing agent) and the Kimberley Regional Office Environment and Culture Sector Manager from the Department of Public Works. This is an

agricultural project that produces vegetables. It has employed 50 EPWP participants.

The intervention by the Enterprise Development Unit changed the perception of the project owners who did not have a clue on how to make the project sustainable so that the work opportunities that have been created through EPWP can be maintained. The point of entry was to provide workshop to project owners on entrepreneurship and cooperative awareness, thereafter cooperative was formed and registered.

Northern Cape Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) was then roped in to provide cooperative governance training and basic vegetable production to improve the quality of the produce in which all 50 participants were trained.

The business was given strategies to market its products so that whatever is produced is sold to generate income to sustain it. Retailers in Hartswater, Jankempdorp and Vryburg as well as Jankempdorp Hospital were approached with intent to supply them with fresh produce from the cooperative.

The retailers approached were happy with the produce and are now buying from the project. This inspired the cooperative and an extra piece of land was asked from the Phokwane Local Municipality in which 5 hectares was granted to the project on a lease to buy agreement. The project intends to expand its production from the current 3 hectares to 8 hectares inclusive of the recently acquired land.

Partnership to ensure the success of the project

The project requires on-going support from stakeholders like the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. An extension officer is needed to closely monitor the cooperative to ensure the correct application of skills acquired through training and also continuous training to stay abreast with the technological changes. SMME development departments and agencies such as Northern Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism, Small Enterprise Finance Agency (SEFA) and Northern Cape Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) are also required to provide their support to the project. This is to ensure that jobs gained through EPWP are not lost.



EPWP training hosts workshop

By Emmanuel Jiyane

Picture by Emmanuel Jiyane



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Training Unit hosted the EPWP learning programme workshop at Diep in Die Berg in Pretoria from 15 to 18 March 2016. Amongst the people who attended the workshop were programme implementers, policy makers, politicians and EPWP officials. The objective of the workshop was to improve the understanding of the EPWP and to create a solid foundation for both new and current EPWP officials about the Programme and its different sectors.

Deputy Director General (DDG) of EPWP Mr Stanley Henderson made official opening remarks about the workshop. In his address he said “the lack of understanding of the EPWP amongst implementers and politicians led to the need to develop a course which ensures a common understanding of the programme, so that implementers are able to apply and implement the necessary knowledge for the up-scaling and mainstreaming of EPWP and its sub-projects.”

The course offered at the workshop covered the four sectors of EPWP and provided a basic understanding of all elements of the EPWP including the institutional arrangements, monitoring and evaluation, training and enterprise development including global perspectives and benchmarking.

Mr Henderson explained that “during the training the International Labour Organisation (ILO) will remind us that we are selling ourselves short in South Africa”

“We need to know that South Africa’s EPWP is seen as a shining example globally within the area of the implementation of Public Employment Programmes (PEPs),” Mr Henderson said.

Turning to the EPWP course offered at the workshop, Mr Henderson said that although it (the course) was currently not accredited, considerations were being made by the Department of Public Works (DPW) to undertake accreditation. “Plans are also underway to consider establishing this course within institutions of higher learning,” Mr Henderson added.

The course is implemented like any other on-the-job training courses that are aimed at internal capacity development. Officials and participants who attended the course for the full four days

were expected to receive Certificates of Attendance that are signed by the DDG of EPWP.

Mr Henderson further gave overview on the EPWP.



“The EPWP started in 2004 with the launch of Phase 1 which was implemented until 2009 and it created over 1 million work opportunities. From 2009 to 2014, the EPWP Phase 2 was implemented, which had a target of creating 4 million work opportunities. The EPWP Phase 3 – which is the current phase – started in 2014 and it’s expected to create over 6 million work opportunities by 2019. It is however important to ask ourselves what should be done different in EPWP Phase Three. One of the answers to that question is involving communities in the formulation and implementation of EPWP projects and programmes” he added.

The workshop was organised by the Director for Training in EPWP, Ms Cinderella Makunike and her team. Ms Makunike stated that a total of 208 officials in Gauteng, Free State and Eastern Cape provinces went through this course during the 2014/15 financial year. “The aims for this workshop is also to develop programmes that area specific for sectors and implementers, develop trainers as well as decentralise the learning programme across the country,” she said.

Ms Makunike said that although EPWP cannot solve South Africa’s problem of high unemployment rate, the programme improves the lives of the poor.



EPWP participant testimony

By Lesego Moretlwe

Picture by Michael Mokoena

Ms Ziyanda Mfenya was born in Umtata, Eastern Cape. She has acquired a national diploma in civil engineering and NQF Level 7 in Labour intensive Construction (LIC). Ms ziyanda is a former learner of EPWP Vuk'Uphile programme who made the best out of the EPWP training and work opportunity she had. she recently attended the EPWP strategic session and this is what she had to say:



When did you join EPWP-Vuk'uphile Learnership Programme?

I joined EPWP at Amathole District Municipality in 2007. I needed in-service training as I was still a student that time doing my Civil Engineering Diploma. So when I joined the programme I became a supervisor on site, during that time the programme needed a group of 3 people in 10 groups meaning we were 30 in total and on the group of 3, there will be 2 supervisors and one contractor so I chose to be a supervisor since I needed to gain experience on the ground to be able to write on my log book.

For how long was the Learnership/ Duration of the Programme?

The Vuk'Uphile Learnership Programme is offered within a period of 3-4 years and is divided into 3 stages. The first stage was to be in a classroom with service provider to learn NQF level 4 and second stage to get first project on the ground and be guided by the mentors and the consultants on site. Then again repeat same after the project is done, going back to the classroom to learn more about implementation of projects using Labour Intensive Construction (LIC), up until we finished 3 projects allocated to each group. The best part was we were getting our salaries every month.

What was the objective behind your participation in the Programme?

My main objective in joining Vuk'Uphile programme was to get my in-service training, finish my studies and have my own company knowing exactly what to do when I get a project. Starting a company without knowledge can be a challenge without a proper experience. Implementing EPWP projects using LIC methods was the best experience i could get.

Briefly outline your journey after you exited the

Programme.

When the programme ended 2011, I had to complete my studies in Civil Engineering and I graduated in 2012. In 2013 I joined EPWP phase 2 when I got a job as assistant technical advisor at Blackjills Engineers which is situated in Midrand Gauteng, but the contract we had was in Northern Cape, Kimberley. The contract we had was National Public Works contract of 3 years assisting all 32 local municipalities in the Northern Cape region on implementation of EPWP projects, compliant on EPWP, etc. While I was with Blackjills Engineers I was promoted to overlook the work done as a Provincial Technical Advisor but unfortunately the contract ended November 2015.

What are you doing at the moment?

Since December 2015 I am permanently employed at Frances Baard district municipality as EPWP Coordinator based in Kimberley Northern Cape. My job description is to make sure that our municipality together with our four local municipalities implement EPWP projects and ensure compliance, maximize job creation using EPWP methods, alleviate poverty, Empowering youth and women and lastly to implement these projects in all four sectors.

What can you say to the youth and unemployed South Africans who are interested in joining EPWP

EPWP is the best platform to start as a participant or entrepreneur depending on what you want to achieve in life. Personally I have learned a lot in this Programme as I started from Phase I and still with it and it has changed the way I look at life. EPWP is there to provide training and work opportunities to the poor and unskilled South Africans who are struggling to make ends meet and when an opportunity presents itself, grasp it with both hands.

What do you think should EPWP do to further assist the vulnerable, poor and unemployed people?

According to the way I see thing, EPWP is doing its best to improve all the listed above, we should also remember not to spoon-feed our people, in that way we will be killing our generation and our economy. You participate on EPWP project you get training, u get certificate that you did not pay for then it's up to participants to hide the certificate under the bed or use it wisely to get decent job.

You participate in a contractor development programme, meaning you will have your own company at the end. Then it's up to you to give back to the community as a contractor or having soup kitchen since you are well aware that our government is doing its best to eradicate poverty in this country and to create temporal work opportunities for our youth, disabled, women.

What experience/ qualifications do you have?

I have ND: Civil Engineering and NQF Level 7 LIC. Been participation on EPWP since phase I and I am still with EPWP Phase III.

EPWP Contractor Development Programme honored

By Kgomotso Mathuloe and Emmanuel Jiyane
Picture by Emmanuel Jiyane



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)'s Vuk'uphile Learnership Programme was honoured for its contribution in the upliftment of women in the construction sector at the 2016 annual Women in Construction Awards event.

The awards ceremony was held on 10 May 2016 at Gallagher Estate in Midrand, Johannesburg under the theme, "Recognising excellence in Africa".

The Vuk'uphile Learnership Programme was a finalist in the category of Excellence in Career Development and it received a Recognition of Excellence certificate.

The award was accepted by the EPWP Director for Public Relations and Communication in the National Department of Public Works Ms Kgomotso Mathuloe.

The Vuk'uphile Learnership Programme is aimed at training and developing emerging contractors within the built environment. The Programme develop administrative, technical, contractual, managerial and entrepreneurial skills of the learners.



Women in Construction Awards Director Ms Athi Myoli said "The awards are an enabler, which shows women that their efforts within the industry are recognised. Seeing and hearing about women excelling in the construction sector proves that there is a support for women in the male dominated industry"

The Women in Construction Awards started in 2013 and the awards recognise women who are pioneers in innovation within the built environment.

The Programme is intended to develop emerging contractors into fully-fledged contractors to execute labour intensive projects. Types of project that are implemented through the Vuk'uphile Learnership Programme include, storm water drains, low volume roads and sidewalks, water reticulation, bricklaying and others. The Vuk'uphile Learnership Programme started in 2004.



Photo Gallery

