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*Happy Holidays*

## EPWP participants are a national asset: Deputy President Ramaphosa

Article by Michael Mokoena  
Pictures by Emmanuel Jiyane



"Every day, all across South Africa, thousands of our people are going out to build a new country. They are paving roads and growing food. They are clearing alien vegetation and fighting fire. They are cultivating young minds and caring for the sick. They are building school desks and keeping public spaces clean. Through their effort, they are changing our country for the better. They represent the potential of our people and

the hope for our future. They are the reason we are gathered here at this summit."

This is how the State Deputy President, Honourable Cyril Ramaphosa, opened the 5th Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Summit, which was held on 15 to 17 November 2016 at Saint George Hotel

and Conference Centre in Irene, Pretoria. Paying tribute to millions of South Africans who are participating in the EPWP across the country,

Deputy President Ramaphosa continued to say:

“They (EPWP participants) are acquiring skills our country needs and the practical experience that prospective employers seek. They are not merely numbers on a spreadsheet, but part of our effort to reach the magic figure of 6 million work opportunities by 2019. These people are – each and every one of them – a national asset,” Mr. Ramaphosa said.

The 2016 EPWP Summit was held under the theme: “See, Feel and Experience the EPWP”.



Deputy President Ramaphosa further said the summit was vital in deepening social justice and advancing social protection of South Africa’s vulnerable and the poor.

“The summit is a gathering whose urgent task is to enhance the capacity of our state to efficiently deliver work opportunities. This is because Public Employment Programmes (PEPs) are a critical part of the developmental state – and the capacity of the state is critical to the success of these programmes,” Deputy President Ramaphosa explained.

To drive home his argument that the government will continue to implement the PEPs for a long time to come, Deputy President Ramaphosa quoted from the National Development Plan (NDP) – South Africa’s blueprint for socio-economic development – “Even if South Africa achieves the GDP growth above 5 percent a year and employment rises rapidly over the next decade, the need for PEPs remains vital in our work of lifting our poor people out of poverty and unemployment,” he said.

The Deputy President pointed out that it was therefore important for the summit “to give close attention to how to improve the performance of the EPWP and better leverage the resources we have.”

He also urged the delegates at the summit to look at ways of ensuring that the monitoring and evaluation becomes the cornerstone of the EPWP. Some of the issues the Deputy President wanted the delegates to discuss and find solutions on included ways to better integrate the activities of PEPs with the national skills development strategy and the government’s food security and nutrition programmes.

“We also need to look at how the private sector can contribute to the effectiveness of the PEPs. We have done much to explore the linkages, but there is much more we can do,” he added.

The summit was attended by various Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers including, the Minister and Deputy Minister of Public Works, Honourable T.W. Nxesi and Honourable Jeremy Cronin respectively; the Minister of Small Business Development, Honourable Lindiwe Zulu; Minister and Deputy Minister for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) Honourable Des van Rooyen and Honourable Andries Nel as well as senior government leaders who are participating in the implementation of the EPWP across all spheres of government.

Some of the EPWP participants who attended the event hailed the role played by the EPWP in changing their lives for the better. “Before joining the EPWP, life was difficult for me and my children. I had not been employed for a very long time and when the opportunity to join the EPWP came, my life and that of my family changed for the better. The monthly stipend I receive from the Programme has given me an opportunity to provide for my family. I have also been able to take my children to school with my wages,” Mr Samuel Mnisi, an EPWP participant from a brick making project in Pretoria said.

He added that: “I have learned a lot about the process of making the interlock bricks. I believe that the experience I have gained from this project will help me to find a permanent once my contract ends. The EPWP has truly changed my life for the better,” Mr Mnisi added.





# Expose the political abuse of EPWP participants: Minister of Public Works, T.W. Nxesi

Article by Michael Mokoena  
Pictures by Emmanuel Jiyane

Government officials must participate in the fight against the political abuse of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), the Minister of Public Works, Mr T.W. Nxesi said.

Speaking at the end of the three day EPWP Summit held in Irene in Pretoria on 17 November 2016, Minister Nxesi urged South Africans, especially government officials who are participating in the implementation of the EPWP, not to keep quiet when EPWP participants are used as an “army of certain politicians” when they (politicians) are campaigning for election to political office.

“There are those who are making the EPWP a political football. These people must be exposed because to our people, this programme is a livelihood. The EPWP remains a poverty alleviation programme and poverty knows no political party. We have heard a number of participants here (at the summit) testifying about how the EPWP has changed their lives for the better - that is what government intended with this Programme. So those who are abusing the EPWP are abusing the livelihoods of our people and therefore they must be exposed for doing that,” Minister Nxesi said.

The Minister went on to also urge those who are in charge of the EPWP projects and programmes to ensure that participants were also not being exploited while in the EPWP.



Minister Nxesi said it was vital to tackle allegations of the politicization of the EPWP as well as allegations of exploitation of the participants in the Programme. "We must respond to these allegations because they have a potential of eroding the public's trust on the EPWP," he added.

The Minister also reprimanded those who undermined the work done by EPWP participants to refrain from doing so.

"If you undermine the EPWP you are undermining the poor and the unemployed whose children go to bed in empty tummies, while your children have something to eat," he added.



Turning to the summit, Minister Nxesi said it (the summit) was timely as it focused on resolving a number of challenges in the Programme including the issues of underreporting of work opportunities created as well as challenges around the proper record keeping of important documents for audit purposes. Underreporting of work opportunities created in the programme lead to the EPWP only meeting about 70 percent of its 2015/16 target.

The Deputy Minister of Public Works, Mr. Jeremy Cronin thanked the over 600 delegates who participated in the summit. He said partnerships were vital in moving the poor South Africans out of poverty and joblessness.

Earlier during the day, the Deputy Director General (DDG) of EPWP in the National Department of Public Works, Mr. Stanley Henderson presented the resolutions of the summit.

#### Resolutions of the 2016 EPWP Summit

Some of the eleven (11) Summit Resolutions are as follows:

**Resolution 1:** Noting, the under-reporting in 2015/2016 financial year, the Summit resolves that all public bodies will intensify their efforts to report on work opportunities so as to enable the attainment of the 6 million work opportunity target. The EPWP Reporting System will be used as the authentic source of reporting on the programme. Technical support will be provided in this regard.

**Resolution 2:** The Summit notes progress made in the signing of protocols for EPWP phase 3 and resolved that targets in the protocol agreements should be monitored.

**Resolution 3:** The Summit notes progress made in the alignment of EPWP municipal policies to EPWP phase 3 requirements. Municipalities should ensure that this process of aligning EPWP policies should

continue and be completed by 30th June 2017.

The national DPW and Provincial Department of Public Works will continue to provide technical support to Municipalities in this regard.

**Resolution 4:** The Summit notes the progress made in appointing dedicated officials by public bodies at appropriate level of seniority for EPWP and resolved that all spheres of government should ensure that there is dedicated capacity to coordinate and implement EPWP. Public bodies should ensure that EPWP targets are incorporated in the performance agreements of senior managers.





# Over 1000 NYS participants contribute to the effective operation of Parliament while acquiring valuable work experience

Article by Emmanuel Jiyane

Pictures by Emmanuel Jiyane

A total of 1180 young people in Cape Town are being given skills and work experience doing a range of activities that contribute to the effective operation of the Parliament of South Africa. These young people are part of the government's Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) National Youth Services (NYS). These participants are placed at Parliament to perform a range of activities such as cleaning, plumbing, gardening and landscaping, painting, fixing of air-conditioners, electrical equipment and appliances as well as doing administration work at facility, which in turn contributes to the effective operation of the Parliament.

"Some of these young people ensure that the Parliament and its precinct is clean. The participants who are being trained in electrical and mechanical studies ensure that staff at the facility work in a conducive environment by fixing air conditioners, printers and other equipment and appliances. Young people who are doing training in plumbing assist in the regular maintenance of the buildings around the parliamentary precinct," Ms Leeuw explained.

The NYS programme was launched in 2007 to engage the youth of South Africa in strengthening service delivery, promote nation-building, foster social cohesion and to assist youth to gain occupational skills necessary in order to be able to access sustainable

livelihood opportunities.

The programme is aimed at exposing young South Africans between the ages of 18 and 35 to training and work based experiential opportunities in order for them to contribute in service delivery within their communities. This programme is a joint venture with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and the Department of Higher Education as the funder of training.

The 1180 work training opportunities created through the Programme in Parliament, form part of the 6 million EPWP work opportunities that the government is set to create by 2019. These young people work twenty (20) days per month and earn a monthly stipend of R1 577.20. This NYS project is funded by the National Department of Public Works and implemented by Arcus Facilities Management Solution (AFMS)

as a service provider. The AFMS has also appointed 15 of subcontractors to do some of the NYS work at the Parliament. The EPWP coordinator Ms Noxolo Mphehlo said the subcontractors have been selected through an open and competitive process and given contracts each to execute work on the project.

One of the sub-contractor appointed by AFMS is responsible for supplying and installing electrical lights and associated works at Marks Buildings Committee rooms within the Parliamentary precinct. The project to fit lighting and associated works started on 30 April 2016 and ended on 30 May 2016.



According to [www.parliament.gov.za](http://www.parliament.gov.za) – the role and ultimate outcome of the Parliament of South Africa is to represent the people and ensure government by the people under the Constitution, as well as represent the provinces in the national sphere of government. Parliament achieves its mandate through passing legislation, overseeing government action, and the facilitating of public involvement, co-operative government and international participation.

"To achieve its mandate, Parliament deals with a lot of administrative work, which why there is always a need for administrators at the facility," the Deputy Director for NYS in the Department of Public Works Ms Zanele Leeuw said.



## Participants

All participants in the project come from Cape Town and the surrounding areas. Their contracts vary from 12 to 18 months.

Some participants joined the NYS because they needed workplace exposure. While other participants already have college qualifications such as N3 and N6 certificates, those under skill development programme only have Grade 12.

One of the participants in the NYS programme is the 26-year-old Ms Xolelwa Zokufa from Khayelisha who joined programme in September 2015 as an electrician under management skills to acquire her practical experience.

"Before I joined the programme I was unemployed. I had just finished my N3 in Electrical Engineering but was unable to continue with my studies or even find a job. The programme has bettered my life because the monthly stipend that I receive enables me to put food on the table. However what is most important is the work experience that I am receiving through the EPWP training. Today I can fix street lights, electric plugs, I can do fault finding and even install underground and above the ground electricity wires," said Ms Zokufa.

She added that after exiting the programme, she would like to continue her studies in engineering.

For the 27-year-old Olwethu Ndube from Khayelitsha, being part of the NYS programme has given her hope for a better tomorrow. "The work that I do in the programme includes painting walls and ceilings of the buildings that need renovation and maintenance within the Parliament precinct. I believe that I can use the skills I am gaining from this programme to better my community. In fact I am intending to volunteer my painting skill in one of the local crèches in my neighbourhood," she added.



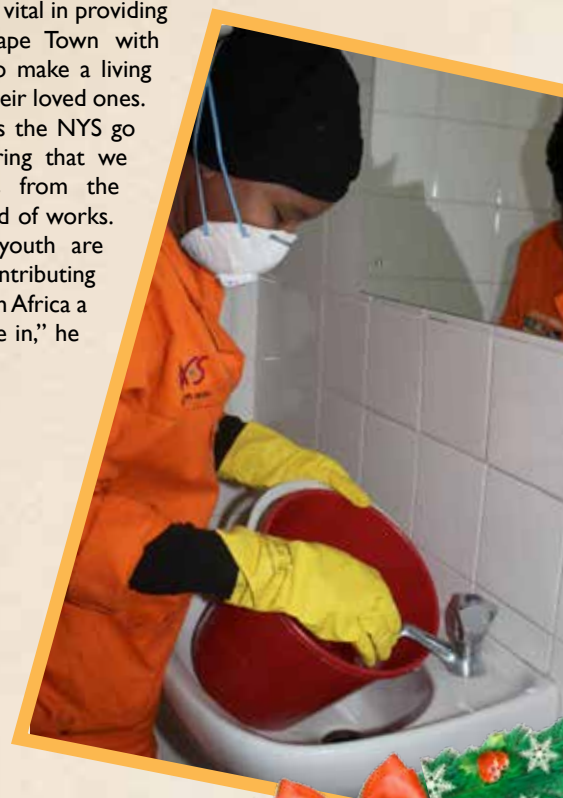
## Exit Strategy

The programme manager in the Department of Public Works, Mr Mzimkulu Gusha explained that the NYS had a three pronged exit strategy.

"Our participants can exit the programme by either going into further learning and training institutions such as FET Colleges or they can go right into employment within the government or private sector and finally they can go and set up small businesses," he said. He added that all exited learners are kept on the Departmental database for future opportunities.

One of the participant who got a job at a private company after participating in the NYS project is the 23-year-old Ms Ayabonga Kelepu from Delft. Ms Kelepu had joined NYS in September 2015 as a project manager and job inspector. "I am currently employed by a company called Power Construction as a Civil engineer. The reason I joined NYS was to complete my in-service training as I had already completed N6 certificate in Building & Civil Engineering with Cape College in Thornton. Some of the skills I acquired through project include First Aid Course, Fire Fighter & Basic Computer Skills. All these skills assist me a lot where I'm currently working," Mr Kelupu added.

One of the mentors in the programme, Mr Chris Michaels explained that the NYS programme was vital in providing young people in Cape Town with skills they can use to make a living for themselves and their loved ones. "Programmes such as the NYS go a long way in ensuring that we remove our youths from the streets into the world of works. Through NYS our youth are hard at work contributing towards making South Africa a better country to live in," he added.





# EPWP Non-State sector give hope to the communities in Mahikeng, North West

Article by Kgomotso Mathuloe  
Pictures by Kgomotso Mathuloe



The Expanded Public Works Programme Non-State sector is providing hope to the communities of Mahikeng in North West. Mahikeng (place of rock) is the capital of the North West province and a predominantly rural region comprising hundreds of small villages that are home to 291 527 residents. The small town which is 300 kms from Johannesburg and 34 kms from Botswana border is located within the Mahikeng Local Municipality. Unemployment rate according to Statistics South Africa (Censuses 2011) was standing at 35,7% while youth employment was at 47,1%.

Even though there have been an improvement in poverty headcount to 8,8% since 2011-2016, the North West is one of the provinces with the highest number of household in South Africa that had skipped a meal, this is according to the Community Survey 2016 released by the Statistic South Africa in June 2016.

The introduction of the Non-state sector in the small town of Mahikeng is contributing to upliftment of lives in the community of Mahikeng. The EPWP Non-state sector was introduced in 2009/2010 financial year, one of the objectives of the Non-state sector was to forge partnership between government and the Non-profit organization (NPO) which assists in the creation of work opportunities.

The NPOs are contracted for 11 months through the Independent Development Trust (IDT) to work with various communities to deliver assets and create work opportunities. One of the NPOs that were contracted to implement EPWP is Angels of Tomorrow Community Support Centre (ATCSC).

ATCSC started implementing EPWP in 2011/2012 and has created 410 work opportunities in villages around Mahikeng. The activities that they are involved in include the following:

- Food security (Community vegetable gardens)
- Care and Support (old age homes),
- Environment care (cleaning and greening),
- Life orientation and Education support (Early Childhood Development programme, School Libraries and teacher support.

Partnership with different stakeholders

The NGO has also partnered with various stakeholders such as Mahikeng Local Municipality, Department of Education and First National Bank (FNB). According to the project owners Motlakala Monamodi, FNB has assisted the participants to open Mzantsi bank account. Most of the participants did not have bank accounts when joining the programme.





## Recruitment of EPWP participants and compliance to the Ministerial determination

According to Ms Monamodi, they recruit participants through the traditional authorities (meetings at the Chiefs) and also work with the schools to identify destitute families. "The participants start as volunteers and then they are offered one year contracts. 'We comply with the Ministerial Determination, we have registered participants with the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) and COIDA and we also pay more than the minimum wage, we pay participants R80 per day and they work 14 days a month.'"

## Impact to the community

Although the ATCSC started operating in 2007, it was only in 2011 after being contracted to implement EPWP that the NPO started growing and the impact in the community has been massive. "We have received acknowledgement letters from institutions that we are working with, we have recently received letter from the Principal from Stateng Primary school outside Mahikeng, acknowledging the quality of services offer to the learners. We offer services such as library assistance, cleaning of schools and planting of the vegetable gardens."

According Ms Monamodi the schools vegetable garden products are used to cook for the learners at schools as part of the School Nutrition Programme. "We also send EPWP participants twice a week to different schools around the local municipality to assist with classroom cleaning." At least learners are able to focus on their studies instead of cleaning classroom," she adds.

Ms Monamodi said that they also encourage communities to start food gardens, she also added that cleaning they provide help to eliminates dumping sites.

On the impact of school libraries, she said that learners academic work have improve since the revitalization of libraries at the school. The ability of learners to read and write has also improved a lot.

## Support to the Schools Libraries

Angels of Tomorrow Community services is also assisting various schools especially primary schools to start school libraries, they are currently working with 20 schools around Mahikeng. One of the schools that are supported with school library is Dihatswane Primary School. The school did not have a Library and the NGO requested donations from various stakeholders in Mahikeng to start a school library.

"We received an old bus from Atamelang buses and worked with inmates from Rooigrond Correctional Centre to turn the old bus into a beautiful school library. We then received books donations from Department of Education, Mafikeng Gambling Boards, Mahikeng Local Municipality and from Communities around the area." said Monamodi.



The library started operating in May 2016. According to the school teacher, Mr Lebuso Boasi, the library is exposing learners to reading and they are learning a lot about the use of the library. "As a Social studies and Mathematics teacher, I encourage learners to visit the library and do research. EPWP participants that are based at the Library are helping learners a lot, I have noticed the improvement in the ability to read and write amongst learners since the opening of the library in our school."

One of the EPWP participants who are a Librarian at Dihatswane Primary School is the 29 year old Lebogang Kelapile, she said that the stipend that she got from the EPWP project has assisted her to complete her matric last year." I am also able to pay school fees for my daughter who doing grade 5."

She said that at the school they assist learners to do research, teach them how to use the library and also assist them with homework. Member of the School Governing Body (SGB), Keilelwang Mooketsi, said that before the introduction of the library on wheels, the school did not have a library and since the introduction of this facility at the school, learners are excited and visit library during the study period.

## EPWP Exit opportunities

The NPO also assist young people in Mahikeng to start cooperatives. "We assisted young people to register businesses and provided information about funding. We have assisted youth to start bricks manufacturing project, baking and poultry farming.

"One of our participants, Tshepiso Ramosa who received training in Marketing and Information technology training sponsored by Vodacom, has now opened an Information Technology centre in Mahikeng, while another participant is currently participating in Artisan Development learnership which is funded by EPWP through the National Skills Fund."





# Community Work Programme creates a better life for rural communities in Eastern Cape

Article by Michael Mokoena

Pictures by Nqwadi Mzamo



The lives of residents in the villages around Amahlathi Local Municipality in the Eastern Cape are improving as a result of their participation in the Community Works Programme (CWP), another initiative of government in reducing unemployment and poverty through the engagement of communities in the delivery of public or community goods and service.

The CWP is one of the sub-programmes within the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Non-State Sector. The CWP is implemented and coordinated by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) and it is implemented through the Implementing Agents (IAs) across the country. In the Amahlathi Local Municipality, the Department appointed the Siyakholwa Development Foundation as the CWP implementing agent. Since the roll-out of the CWP in June 2009, the municipality has created 1630 work opportunities in 37 villages within the municipality.

“The work we do through the CWP immensely contributes to the development of our villages. The CWP projects that we are currently implementing are not only tackling poverty and unemployment, but they also bring about development in our villages. For instance, the

CWP food garden projects have seen members of the community participating in setting-up food gardens at public institutions such as schools and clinics. We have witnessed the establishment of household food gardens by CWP participants and the feeding of the less privileged residents with the produce from the gardens.” Ms Nokuthula Deda said.

Ms Deda is one of community members in Keiskammahoek, a small town of Amahlathi Local Municipality in the Eastern Cape, who is participating in the CWP. She continued to say that “today, the elderly, orphaned and the sick residents are being cared for in the comfort of their own homes through the CWP’s home-based care and auxiliary care services.

Ms Deda added that “today the village of Bumbane (one of the villages around Keiskammahoek) has a community hall and a community crèche that we – CWP Participants - built with our own hands. These are some of the examples of how the EPWP work opportunities through the CWP work has brought development through the delivery of public and community goods and service to our communities.”



Another community member, Mr Sithembele Mbete said that the CWP has afforded the community an opportunity to positively contribute towards the education of their children by engaging in the CWP school projects that include the building and refurbishing of toilets, refurbishing of school furniture as well as preparing meals and doing laundry for school children - especially for the child-headed households. Young matriculants in our villages are also roped-into the programme and are given training to become teacher assistants at schools in our villages. The work we do through CWP has contributed to the improvement of our children's education," Mr Mbete added.

"The CWP has restored the dignity of our children by renovating and building toilets at schools and pre-schools in the area. The CWP is also providing our people, most of whom are poor and unskilled, with work opportunities and skills. The skills that the programme is creating in our villages will leave a lasting legacy," Says Councillor Dumisani Mzili of Ward 1 in the Amahlathi Local Municipality.

Chief Nosiseko Ngqika of the Ngqika Traditional Council expressed support for the Programme. "We would like the government to expand this programme extensively in this area because there is lot of work that must still be done to develop our rural communities. The government must use the CWP to implement mass sport participation programmes in our areas because our children are passionate about sports," Chief Ngqika said.

She added however that the government had to look at increasing the monthly stipend the participants were receiving from the programme.

Chief Ndlovu Jasco Ulana of the Amazizi Traditional Council also praised the role played by the CWP in his community. "We appreciate the work done by the CWP. We also appreciate that the work opportunities created are also aimed at tackling poverty in the area. We however appeal to the government to increase the wages of the participants," Chief Ulana added.

The newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of the foundation, Mr Nqwadi Mzamo believes that the education and training of participants is vital in the development of rural communities. "We believe that we should give our people – especially the youth and women - practical tools they can use to make their lives a success. We offer participants both accredited and informal courses," Mr Mzamo explains.

The accredited courses include: a 5-day Health and Safety and First Aid course; 10 day Welding course; 5 day Supervisory Leadership course; 10 day Work for a Living, Entrepreneurial and Job Centre Development course; 3 day Compost and Vegetable Garden course; 15 day Engineering Hand-skills course; 3 day Financial Literacy course as well as a 5 day Computer Skills course. The informal courses include: Induction for Supervisors; Early Childhood Development; Bright Futures (Puberty and Reproductive Programme) for CWP Teacher Assistants; Home-Based Care; Bricklaying; Plumbing Mentoring; Jungle Gym Installation; Painting and Plastering as well as Fencing.

"Through exposure to these courses, our participants have been able to provide quality assets and services to our people. For instance the Bright Futures programme has capacitated our Teacher Assistants to effectively teach school children life science skills. This programme encourages both girl and a boy child to care and respect their and each other's bodies. This has ensured that we bring down

the number of cases of sexual abuse and teenage pregnancies in the area," Mr Mzamo stated.

Services rendered by the foundation to the community include setting-up vegetable gardens at 54 schools and 30 crèches in the area and clearing wattle along Cata River which contribute to the protection of the northern Keiskammahoek water catchment area. The foundation has formed partnerships with various organisations including the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, the University of Witwatersrand, University of Cape Town, Master Artisan Academy, Bountiful Grains and Brain Boosters to assist the community with various training, mentoring and research.

The Assistant Director for Monitoring and Evaluation in the National Department of Cooperative Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Bathandwa Mayeko said that the CWP programme was being implemented across all municipalities in the Eastern Cape. "The CWP is part of the government's programme to do useful work in our communities. Participants in the programme work eight days a month and this ensures that we give many community members an opportunity to work in the programme," Mr Mayeko said.

He said that the CWP created over 200 000 work opportunities in the country during the 2015/16 financial year. Mr Mayeko commended the Siyakholwa Development Foundation for successfully implementing the CWP programme in the Province.

### **The exit strategy (graduation) for the participants**

Mr Mzamo stated that the participants in the CWP receive skills and experiential training that they can use to enter a formal job market. He mentioned a number of young people who used the programme to gain skills to enter the formal job market:

Ms Nosixolile Mangcunyana is one of the participants who used CWP as a stringboard to enter formal employment. Ms Mangcunyana is currently a social worker for the Eastern Cape Department of Social Development in Port Alfred.

"I worked at the foundation as a community worker. The experience I received prepared me for the world of works," Ms Mangcunyana said.

Another participant who has used skills acquired through the programme to enter the formal job market is Mr Stones Tamsanqa Singata, who is now working for the National Department of Economic Development as a State Accountant.

Other activities undertaken by the CWP in the area include: The foundation's Operational Manager Mr Odwa Njoba said the CWP had a range of projects in the area. These projects include: Food and Nutrition Security Support – this project includes training community members on compost piles and vegetable gardens. Environmental Programmes – this project includes projects such as removal of wattle around water ways.

Maintenance tasks – this project include cleaning, repairing and constructing of dams and bridges in the community.

Urban Renewal – this project include planting of trees, landscaping, clearing and cleaning of public spaces in the area.

Support to Schools- this project include training of women to provide social service to school children, services provided include tackling abuse of children in the area, assistance with the application for social grants and training of young people as teacher assistants.





# EPWP Branch congratulates Pharmacist Assistants trainees

Article by Michael Mokoena

Pictures by Kgomoetso Mathuloe



The Director for Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Training, Ms. Cinderella Makunike has congratulated the 39 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants who were successfully trained and found competent by the Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority (HWSETA) on the 12 months Basic Pharmacist Assistant Programme NQF Level 3 Learnership Programme. These participants are now qualified Pharmacist Assistants as regulated by the South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC).

"These participants have acquired valuable skills they will use to enter the job market. As they exit from the EPWP training programme, many of them have already been recruited by the very institutions that gave them practical training. This is proof that the EPWP in many of its projects and programmes provides participants with valuable skills they can use to enter the formal job market," Ms. Makunike said.

Ms. Makunike added that the graduates will contribute in the government's work of delivering health services to the people of Gauteng.

The Deputy Director for Training in EPWP, Mr. Tshifhiwa Nkhumeleni thanked various government entities as well as private sector companies such as Dischem that participated in the programme. "We wish our participants all the best as they exit the programme to fight for their space in the job market," Mr. Nkhumeleni said. The official graduation of the 39 participants – Pharmacist Assistants – was held at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Pretoria on 25 November 2016.

The event was officiated by the Deputy Minister of Health, Dr. Gwen Ramokgopa. Delivering her keynote address, Dr. Ramokgopa said the pharmacist assistant qualification was vital in moving the country towards the implementation of the National Health Insurance (NHI). "Your qualification is important in the government's ongoing

work of ensuring universal access to health," she said.

Dr. Ramokgopa added that as the world had entered into the fourth industrial revolution, it was vital for health practitioners to learn how to effectively use social media to deliver health services to the people.

## About Pharmacist Assistant Programme

The National Department of Health, working with the National Department of Public Works' EPWP Branch, started implementing the EPWP Pharmacy Assistant Programme in 2015. The programme is a sub-programme within the EPWP Social Sector. This Learnership Programme is a government training initiative aimed at addressing the challenge of skills shortage with the pharmaceutical industry. The learners were recruited from the Gauteng Department of Health database within the Home Community Based Care Programmes. The Learnership Programme commenced in May 2015 and ended in February 2016. It was implemented by the Foundation for Professional Development (FPD) as contracted by the DPW/EPWP.

## Participants

"This learnership programme has changed my life for the better. The journey has been tough but today I am proud to be a graduate and there's a bright future ahead for me. I am now going to live my dreams. I am intending to study post basic qualification in pharmacy assistant," Ms. Ntombifuthi Sithole said.

During training, Ms Sithole was placed at Dischem Three Rivers in Veereniging in Gauteng. "I have learned a lot in terms of how the pharmacy works. At Dischem I worked as an over the counter assistant. My job entailed explaining to patients how to use medication and doing other administration duties at the pharmacy," Ms Sithole added.

Before being recruited into the training programme, Ms Sithole was working as a caregiver at Rise and Shine Community Health Project in Orange Farm. "My work at the centre included doing HIV/Aids counselling, tracking TB defaulters and caring for the sick," she explained.

She added that the monthly stipend she was receiving from the programme has afforded her to care for her child.

Ms Sithole was also awarded a certificate for being the best performing Basic Pharmacist Assistant student.



# EPWP participants must use acquired skills to contribute to development of their communities – Director General Dlabantu

Article by Michael Mokoena  
Pictures by Herman Makhopye

The Director General of the National Department of Public Works, Mr Mziwonke Dlabantu, has urged Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants who graduate from various training initiatives in the Programme, to use their newly acquired skills to contribute in the development of their communities.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony of the 321 participants who were trained by various SETAs in Cape Town, Mr Dlabantu said training in EPWP projects and programmes was vital in equipping the participants with skills that will help them contribute in moving their communities forward.

“One of the key objectives of the EPWP Phase 3 is the creation of sustainable livelihoods for participants. To achieve this training has become an integral part of all EPWP initiatives. As it is, we have a host of training initiatives such as the Artisan Development Programme, the Pharmacy Assistant Programme as well as a host of learnerships and skills programmes,” Mr Dlabantu explained.

Turning to the graduation ceremony, the Director General encouraged participants to never stop learning skills that could contribute in moving them into formal employment or business.

“I encourage you to work harder to grow the skills and talents you have been being given by the EPWP. Your graduation today means the start of big things for you. Go out there and make yourselves proud,” Mr Mziwabantu added.

The 321 graduates had participated in the training programmes that was implemented by the Independent Development Trust (IDT), various Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) as well as four SETAs, namely, Agriculture Sector Education and Training

Authority (AgriSeta); Culture, Arts, Tourism and Hospitality Sector Education and Training (C); Culture, Arts, Tourism and Hospitality Sector Education and Training (Cathseta); Education Training Development Practice Sector Education and Training Authority (ETDPSeta); Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority (HWSe)

The AgriSeta trained 130 participants in mix farming system. The HWSeta trained 124 participants in courses such as Basic Skills in Child and Youth Care, Thogomelo Psychosocial Support for Community Care and Early Childhood Development.



The Cathseta trained 17 participants on Cook Convenience. The duration of the training ranged from 21 days to a month, depending on the course.

The IDT and the SETAs worked with various Non Profit Organisations in delivering training to participants. The NPOs that participated in the training include Community Plough Back Movement, The Labon Foundation project, Community Bible Society, Masibambane project, Sesona Sibane HIV/Aids project, Yizani Sakhe project, Baphumelele project, and Urban Rural Development project.





The Deputy Director General (DDG) of the EPWP in the National Department of Public Works, Mr Stanley Henderson said that the EPWP was “an important government programme that is aimed at alleviating poverty, through the provision of short to medium term work and training opportunities to the poor as well as a great contributor to community development.”

The Chief Executive Officer of IDT, Mr. Coceko Pakade said the entity played a vital role in ensuring that the government achieves its target of creating over 6 million EPWP work opportunities by 2019. “Our specific role in the implementation of the EPWP is to recruit qualifying NPOs which have socially constructive activities to take part in the Programme. To contract the NPOs for a period of one year into the EPWP Non State Sector, monitor the performance of these NPOs towards the contract as well as to report on the progress of the EPWP Non State Sector towards the creation of work opportunities,” Mr Pakade said.



### Participants

“I joined the EPWP initiative at the Urban Rural Development Project in 2012 after I dropped out of the University of Cape Town where I was studying towards a degree in International Economic Law and Public Policy Administration. I left the university because of financial challenges. But today through the stipend and the opportunities that became available to me through the EPWP, I have managed to go back to university to complete my studies.

I should be completing in 2017,” Ms Xolelwa Dagmani.

She continued to say “Many atimes, we looked at the programme as a way to get a stipend, but once we were in the programme working and learning, we realized that there’s more to the Programme than meets the eye. Today I stand proud to be having been part of the EPWP because it has not only developed my skills and my mindset, but it has also contributed immensely in the development of young women in my community,” Ms Dagmani said.

The 32-year-old Ms Dagmani worked in the garden and kitchen scheme of Urban Rural Development. She and her colleagues at the project are responsible for setting up food gardens for the community of Gugulethu. At the project, she received training in mixed farming system.

For the 45-year-old Ms Nomakula Ngodwana, a participant at the Baphumelele project in Khayelitsha, receiving Thogomelo training has equipped her better in terms of executing her caregiver responsibilities at the Baphumelele

project.

“At Baphumelele project we deal with mostly children from vulnerable communities. So this training was vital in equipping me to do my work better and efficiently,” she said.



# Provincial EPWP Kamoso Awards and Summits

Article by Puleng Tlhabi

Various Provinces held their Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) annual Kamoso Awards in October and November 2016. The Awards were followed by the Provincial EPWP Summits, where progress on the implementation of the EPWP Phase 3 as well challenges were discussed.

## Eastern Cape Kamoso Awards

The Eastern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works (DRPW) held its first EPWP Provincial Kamoso Awards in uMthatha at Dan's Lodge on 10 November 2016. The event was a success despite the rainy and cold weather that enveloped the town of uMthatha. the EPWP participants, various stakeholders and delegates came

in numbers to celebrate the excellence and hard work achieved through the EPWP by the province. Among the prominent people who attended was the honourable MEC of DRPW, Ms. T Marawu who in her speech praised everyone involved in making the EPWP programme a success. She quoted the late former President Nelson Mandela who once said "like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural it is man-made and it can be eradicated by actions of human-beings".

The winners were awarded trophies and certificates. Out of the 25 categories, Chris Hani region won 6 awards in infrastructure, social sector, environment and culture and in the non-state sector.

## Winners from different sectors according to the 25 categories were:

- Best Construction Project – Infrastructure , Lukhanji Local Municipality , Construction of Lesseyton Cemetery
- Best maintenance Programme – Infrastructure, EC Roads and Public Works, Chris Hani Household Contractors.
- Best Public Body Supporting Contractor Development- Infrastructure, Amathole District Municipality, Ngqushwa Water Service Reticulation.
- Best Region Youth Development Programme – Infrastructure , Chris Hani- APTCOD
- Best Local Municipality- Infrastructure, Ntabankulu Local Municipality
- Best District Municipality – Infrastructure, Alfred Nzo District Municipality
- Best Household Contractor Programme- Infrastructure, EC- Roads and Public works – O.R Tambo Region.
- Best Provincial Project – Environment and Culture –EC-Rural Development and Agrarian Reform Nkondo Landcare Project
- Best District Project- Environment and Culture , Chris Hani District Municipality
- Best Local Municipality – Environment and Culture , Ntabankulu Local Municipality
- Best Implementing department- Environment and Culture, EC-Co-op Governance and Traditional Affairs
- Best Environment and Culture Project- Zibambe Ziqine
- Best provincial Project- Social, EC-Safety and Liaison , Safety patrollers Project
- Best Municipality Project- Social , Ntabankulu Municipality- Community Safety and security in Ntabankulu
- Best Programme- Social , National Nutrition Programme
- Best District Municipality – Social , Chris Hani
- Best local Best Local Municipality – Social, Elundini
- Best Implementing Department – Social , EC – Safety and Liaison
- Best Social Sector Project- Social , Traffic Wardens
- Project with more disabled people – Social , ECDOC – Support Staff
- Best Project NPO Programme – Non-State, National Department of Public Works, Ncedisizwe Based Care
- Best Public Body with More Work Opportunities – District Municipality, Chris Hani, Sanitation Backlog Region 3(Cluster 3,4,5)
- Best Public Body With More Work Opportunities- Local Municipality, Matatiele Local Municipality , Operational Rea-Hloekisa

**Other provinces that also hosted their Kamoso Awards and Provincial Summits were KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga.**

Below is the list of KwaZulu-Natal Kamoso Awards winners

Category	Winning Public Body
Best Implementing Department - Infrastructure Sector	Department of Transport
Best District Municipality - Infrastructure Sector	Zululand District Municipality
Best Local Municipality - Infrastructure Sector	Mkhambathini Municipality
Best Construction Project - Infrastructure Sector	eThekweni Municipality
Best Maintenance Programme - Infrastructure Sector	eThekweni Municipality
Best Public Body Supporting Contractor Development - Infrastructure Sector	Department of Public Works
Best Implementing Department - Social Sector	Department of Health
Best District Municipality - Social Sector	Zululand District Municipality
Best Local Municipality - Social Sector	Jozini Municipality
Best Project - Social Sector	eThekweni Municipality
Best District Municipality - Environment & Culture Sector	Umzinyathi District Municipality
Best Local Municipality - Environment & Culture Sector	Msunduzi Municipality
Best Project - Environment & Culture Sector	Newcastle Municipality
Best Project - Non - State Sector (NPO)	Widowed Women of South Africa
Best Project - Non - State Sector (CWP)	Ray Nkonyeni Municipality
Best Innovative Project	Department of Public Works





# Profile of Witzenberg Municipal Project

Article by Thamsanqa Ngqula  
Pictures by Thamsanqa Ngqula



Training for Witzenberg Municipality was on a skills program that was packaged from General Education and Training Certificate (GETC) in Horticulture. It was implemented on 14 March 2016 until 21 April 2016. Training targeted participants from landscaping and town greening, rivers and cemeteries, trees and cutting grass project. The Project activities involved:

- The cleaning of the town entrances
- Landscaping of the community parks
- Cleaning rivers, cemeteries and falling trees
- Cutting of grass in parks, open spaces and municipal sport grounds.

A total of 17 learners received GETC in Horticulture Skills program from the training provider; Phezukomkhono Training Services. Phezukomkhono was contracted by the Department of Public Works Regional Office in Cape Town.

The skills program covered six unit standards that amount to a total of 20 credits. The unit standards that were covered were as follows:

1. Apply health and safety principles in horticulture
2. Control weeds manually in plant propagation and landscaping
3. Apply water to landscaped areas
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the roles and requirements of water in plants
5. Mow lawn in landscaped areas
6. Create an awareness of environmental protection.





### **Graduation ceremony**

All the 17 learners of the Witzenberg Municipality Landscape Project completed the training successfully and graduated on 01 July 2016, during a ceremony that was held at Ceres' town hall. All the participants received certificate of competency. The ceremony was graced by the EPWP Program Manager Mr Mzimkulu Gusha, Director of Community Services Ms Jo-anne Krieger, Local Economic Development Officer Mr Riaan Fick, Assistant Director on Environment and Culture Sector from Public Works and Transport Ms Nonzaliseko Cekiso, Cape Winelands Regional Coordinator Jana-Mari Cronje and the Socio Economic Manager for Witzenberg Municipality Mr Grant Lintmar.

Mr Gusha emphasized that the skill will benefit the participants in different ways. "However it is up to the participants to use the certificate wisely," he said. Mr Gusha also mentioned some few possible options that participants may consider after exiting the programme and it includes: "Starting their own businesses, looking for better employment and even pursuing further studies in the field of horticulture". The learners were all very excited to receive their certificates which they have worked hard for. During the ceremony, some of the learners expressed how much they have learned and were grateful for the opportunity they have received. They also thanked the Department of Public Works and the EPWP training unit for funding and giving them the opportunity to gain the skills and training so that they can get employed and start their own businesses.





