



public works

Department:
Public Works
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME

NEWSLETTER • NEWSLETTER • NEWSLETTER • NEWSLETTER

September 2016 edition

EPWP projects are liberating communities – NCOP Chairman

By Michael Mokoena
Pictures by Herman Makhopye



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) projects and programmes are contributing to the emancipation of our people, the Honorable Chairperson of the Select Committee of Economic and Business Development in the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) in Parliament, Mr. Boingotlo Nthebe said.

Speaking during the select committee's two-day oversight visit to EPWP projects in Soweto in the Gauteng Province, Mr. Nthebe said that the EPWP projects they had visited on 01 and 02 September 2016 had highlighted the role that the EPWP played in the economic and social emancipation of the people of Soweto.

"Yesterday (01 September 2016) we were told about the role that young people at the Persevere Until Something Happens NGO in Soweto play in tackling poverty, drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, the scourge of HIV/Aids and other social ills in their community. The young people we interacted with are EPWP participants working at the NGO. These young people told us that they were involved in a range of activities including mentoring school children, assisting them with their schoolwork and providing them with a range of social support they (school children) needed to succeed in life," Mr. Nthebe said.

The EPWP projects that the select committee visited include the Ikusasa Lethu Youth project, the Devland-Golden Highway Housing Project. The select committee also visited the Shomang Sebenzani Development Organisation in Alexandra Township.

Mr. Nthebe said that although they were pleased with the work done by the EPWP in bettering the lives of the people of Soweto, there were areas of concern that had to be tackled.

"For instance, in the Devland-Golden Highway Housing Project, we would like to see women being at the heart of the work that is done to build affordable houses for our people. We would also like to see people who are living with disability being at the forefront of building houses for themselves in this project."

"We would like to see government working on a plan to provide infrastructural support to some of these NGOs so that they (NGOs) can increase their number of EPWP participants as well as increase the number of children and the vulnerable members of the community who are benefiting from the NGOs' services. However, most importantly, government departments must accelerate their partnerships in order to provide our people with a basket of social strategies that are geared at improving their lives," Mr. Nthebe added.

The select committee members who were part of the oversight visit included Honorable Member Mr. Simphiwe George Mthimunye, Honorable Member Mr. Eddie Makue, Honorable Member Mr. Willem Frederick Faber and Honorable Mr. Johan Jaco Londt.

During the visit at the housing project, Mr. Faber emphasized the importance of providing participants with accredited training.



"We (select committee) would have to verify if the training provided to the participants is accredited. We do not want our people to be left with worthless certificates once the project is complete," he added. Mr. Mthimunye advised the Department of Public Works and public bodies that are implementing the EPWP to partner with institutions of higher learning to ensure that participants are provided with accredited training.

The Projects visited

The Devland-Golden Highway Housing Project in Soweto is a low cost housing project that is rolled out by the Johannesburg Social Housing Company (JOSHCO). JOSHCO is a social housing entity for the City of Johannesburg. The Project is situated between Southgate Mall and Eldorado Park, in region D in Soweto. The implementation of the project started in the 2015/16 financial year, and is planned to run for the 3 years. Once it is complete, the project is expected to yield 588 housing units, and 447 parking bays. The project has to-date created over 150 EPWP work opportunities. The participants do general



work of bricklaying while others are subcontracted to provide various services such as painting of the completed units. One of the EPWP participants who has been contracted in the project is the 23-year-old Ms. Nomonde Mpongo.

Her small company was awarded a contract to paint the completed units. "I currently employ 20 EPWP participants who are painting the units that have been completed. The project has contributed in the transfer of income to poor households in the community as well as in the provision of skills to the participants," she said.

At the Persevere Until Something Happens NGO, the participants spoke passionately about how their work is improving the lives of the residents of Soweto "I currently work at the NGO as a peer counselor. The work I do is about talking to young people about issues of drugs, teenage pregnancy, HIV/Aids and other social matters such as those," Ms. Thembi Cornie said.



The manager for the NGO, Ms. Lorna Fisher explained that her organization had created hundreds of work opportunities for the youths in the area. "The NPO has provided hope for most unemployed young people in the area".

Although Ms. Fisher thanked the government for providing EPWP participants with training, she urged the government to provide participants with skills that can assist them to enter the formal job market.

The Select Committee on Economic and Business Development does oversight work on various government departments, including Economic Development, Energy, Labour, Transport, Public Works and Small Business Development.



Mndwaka Dam project restores the dignity of rural communities in the Eastern Cape

By Michael Mokoena

Pictures by Amandla Nquma and Michael Mokoena



The Sontinga Consulting Services and ARQ Consulting Engineering worked on the project design and construction monitoring. The contractor in the project was ZanaManzi Joint Venture, which is made up of Water and Sanitation Services South Africa, Amanz'abant&ZanaManzi Construction.



The dignity of people residing in rural villages of the Mbashe Local Municipality in the Eastern Cape has been restored by the government's multimillion rand Mndwaka Dam project. The project has been able to connect over 40 000 people in 63 villages around the municipality to clean tap water, thereby reducing a number of cases of waterborne diseases in the area. "Before the construction of this dam and the installation of the taps in our villages, life was very hard for us. For instance we were forced to walk for many kilometers to fetch water with buckets from the river (Mndwaka River). We were drinking water (from the river) with animals. We also used the river to bath and wash our clothes. As a result drinking water directly from the river often got us sick from waterborne diseases such as cholera."

"However since the installation of taps in the area, we are no longer suffering from waterborne diseases such as cholera. By building this dam and providing us with running water, the government has restored our dignity," Ms. Noluthando Venevene said.

Ms Venevene, a resident of Khotyana village in Mndwaka West, was one of the 326 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) workers who participated in the construction of the dam.

About the Project

The Mndwaka Dam is located near Hole in the Wall, along the Eastern Cape Wild Coast. The dam was built as part of the R294 million Mncwasa Water Supply Scheme, which was commissioned by the Amathole District Municipality. Assets to be delivered through the scheme include the Mndwaka Dam, Water Treatment Plant and bulk water pipelines and reticulation.

The Mndwaka Dam project was funded by the Department of Water and Sanitation. Some of the partners in the project include the Department of Public Works which provided labour through its EPWP. The EPWP Large Projects Directorate was responsible for this aspect of the project and provided technical support on implementing the project using labour intensive construction methods.

According to the project manager at the district municipality, Mr. Amandla Nquma, the Mndwaka Dam is the highest rubble masonry concrete dam ever built in the Southern Africa using the EPWP's labour intensive methods. "We used labour intensive method to build the dam because we wanted to ensure that the communities around this area benefited from the construction of this asset. This type of construction method ensured that we alleviate poverty by creating short to medium term work and training opportunities for over 320 people in the area. The total value of the project was R76million and over 20 percent of that amount was used to pay wages," Mr Nquma said.

He added that the dam was built using mostly local materials. "The rocks that were used in the construction of the dam were sourced locally and only a few materials such as the cement were brought in from outside," Mr Nquma explained.

"The project was vital in the government's work of delivering clean drinkable tap water to the residents in the area who no longer have to share water with animals. What is also equally important is the developmental value of the project in the community – for instance some of the participants have used the monies they have earned from the projects to take their children to school; some have been able to build themselves houses while others have even bought themselves cars," Mr Nquma explained.



He added that work of installing taps in the villages around the municipality was still ongoing. "Currently not all villages have taps. But we are continuing to install taps to ensure that all residents in the 63 villages have access to clean drinkable water," Mr. Nquma added.

In terms of the demographics of the participants employed in the project, Mr. Nquma pointed out that "we employed 54 young women, 178 young men, 26 adult women, 67 adult men as well as one person with disability."

Construction of the Mndwaka Dam started in April 2012 with completion in July 2015; however work is still continuing to create other assets such as water reticulation plant and bulk water pipelines.



Training

Mr. Nquma stated that the participants had also received training in a range of activities including on how to operate the batch plant and crusher machines. "Most of the training was done in-house," he added.

Exit

"Some of the people who participated in the project were subsequently permanently recruited by the contractor – ZanaManzi Joint Venture – and also by the mining sector, while others went on to further their studies at various institutions of higher learning," Mr. Nquma concluded.

Community Participation

The community - through local Chiefs, headmen and ward councillors - played a significant role in the selection of the participants into the project. The Chairman of the Project Steering Committee, Mr. Headman Ntoyaphi said the project was rolled-out at the behest of the local Chiefs.

"The local Chiefs were worried about the death of their people in the area who were forced to share dirty water from the river with animals.

Most cases of death in the villages were linked to cholera. The Chiefs then approached the Amathole District Municipality to request the construction of a dam and the installation of taps in the area so that residents could get clean drinkable water;"

"The project has been very important for the people in the area because our people benefited through the work opportunities created and indeed through the asset that has been created," Mr. Ntoyaphi said.

He pointed out that the Steering Committee's function was to work with all local stakeholders such as the community, the local Chiefs and the contractors to ensure representation in the project. "We were also responsible for ensuring that a transparent way of recruiting the participants was enforced. We also had to ensure that more women and young people participated in the project," Mr. Ntoyaphi pointed out.

One of the challenges experienced during the construction of the project was to ensure that people from all 63 villages benefited from the project. "Through our collective work with the local Chiefs, the local and district municipalities as well as the contractors, we managed to ensure that people from all villages participate in the project," he added.

Mr. Ntoyaphi said that the residents in the area are pleased with the dam.



Women play role in community development

By Lesego Moretlwe and Xolani Xulu
Pictures by Xolani Xulu



The State Deputy President Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa has hailed the role played by women in the success of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). Deputy President Ramaphosa, as Chairperson of the Public Employment Programme Inter-Ministerial Committee (PEP-IMC), led a Cabinet visit to the Zibambele Road Maintenance Programme in Durban, in KwaZulu Natal on 21 July 2016.

Interacting with women in the Programme (Zibambele Road Maintenance Programme), Deputy President Ramaphosa said they (women) played a pivotal role in the development of the nation.

“As women in the Programme, you play an important role in the government’s work to fight poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment in this province. The government honors the valuable contribution you make in moving our nation forward,” Deputy President Ramaphosa said.

Deputy President Ramaphosa was joined by various Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers including Minister of Environmental Affairs, Ms. Edna Molewa, Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Rooyen, Deputy Minister of Public Works Mr. Jeremy Cronin, Deputy Minister in the Presidency responsible for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Mr. Buti Manamela, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs as well as senior government officials in the Province.

About Zibambele Maintenance Programme

A total of 44 750 women are currently employed through the Zibambele Road Maintenance Programme. The programme, which is implemented by the KwaZulu Natal Department of Transport, is part of the EPWP. The women in the programme are contracted to provide and maintain specific length of the province’s rural roads. The Zibambele Road Maintenance Programme is the provincial department’s flagship poverty alleviation programme. The Programme aims to intervene in the social security net by creating meaningful and sustainable job opportunities to counter long term unemployment.

The Zibambele Road Maintenance System was first tabled in October 1998 at a job summit, as part of the Road to Wealth and Job Creation think tank of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport. It was envisaged as an intervention to create extensive work opportunities, whilst at the same time maintaining low volume roads in the rural areas.



Objective of the Programme

The objectives of the Programme are to:

- Provide cost effective, labour intensive, methods of routine maintenance of the Provinces road network.
- Provide ongoing and sustainable work opportunities for destitute households in an effort to break the poverty cycle.
- Increase the potential for skills-based and knowledge-based development of all the Programme’s beneficiaries through training.



Selection process

The community is engaged and households are required to complete a means test which measures the poverty level of the household. The community select most needy and their members are then employed in the Zibambe Programme.

Project scope

Zibambe beneficiaries are contracted to perform the following tasks:

- Maintain the road drainage systems, including
- the removal of silt;
- removal of obstructions;
- clearing drains; and
- constructing rock bolsters.
- Maintain the road verges by removing build up of soil and grass alongside the road; and
- Clearing of vegetation from the line of sight.
- Maintain the road surface in a smooth and safe condition
- Direct rainwater away from the road surface;
- Clear the road verges of litter and weeds; and
- Fill potholes and surface erosion channels.



Materials and tools provided to participants

The Zibambe beneficiaries are provided with the following equipment:

- Pick and handle/hoe and handle
- Spade/shovel
- Bush knife
- Slasher/sickle
- Reflective safety vest
- 2 Traffic cones
- 1 pair of Gloves
- 1 pair of Boots
- 1 Hat



Training provided

To ensure that the Contractors are adequately trained to efficiently carry out their obligations, contractors are trained in:

- the proper use of the tools and equipment issued;
- labour intensive tasks which contractors are required to undertake;
- safety in terms of the OHS Act and Regulations; and
- general site safety procedures.

Funding

The Annual Project Budget is R 350 000 000.00 and the programme is funded through the Equitable Share.

Safety

The contractors are provided with the Zibambe Contractor's Task and Safety booklet and Contractors are trained on-site in safety.

EPWP compliance

The Zibambe Programme follows the EPWP Phase 3 Principles:

- Adherence to the EPWP minimum wage rate;
- Selection of workers based on a clearly defined process;
- Work provide or enhances public goods and community services; and
- Minimum labour intensity appropriate to sector.
- The Zibambe Programme is reported on the EPWP Reporting System.

Project output

The Zibambe contractors provide routine roads maintenance to approximately 22 000km of road annually.

Government and Private Sector utilise EPWP to drive employment creation in the rural villages of Limpopo

By Puleng Tlhabi

Pictures by Puleng Tlhabi

Government, working with the private sector, is fighting unemployment and underdevelopment in the rural communities of Limpopo Province. Through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) has partnered with Venteco (PTY) Ltd to provide residents of Tshivhase village with work opportunities at the Tshivhase Tea Estate farm. The participants in the Programme are responsible for a range of activities within the tea production value chain. The scope of work the participants do on the farm includes general field and estate maintenance, harvesting, tea processing and packaging of tea into teabags. The tea is then sold in bulk and value added tea to various retail stores such as Pick n Pay, Spar and others.

Of the 30 participants employed in the programme, 11 of them are women while 19 of them are men, 13 are youth while 17 of them are above the age 35 years. The appointment criterion was grade 10.



Residents in the village state that the tea manufacturing programme has not only contributed to the alleviation of poverty and unemployment, but has also brought about the much needed development.

“My mother was once part of the programme. Her participation in the programme did not only put food on the table, but it contributed a lot in advancing my education. She also used part of her monthly stipend to pay for my fees at the Limpopo University. I’m currently studying BSc Degree in Physics and Chemistry at the University. By contributing to the advancement of my education, this programme is proof that it is contributing in the development of my community,” Mr Rendani Netshidzavhani, one of the community members said.

Mr Netshidzavhani resides in Mapeta village, which is located near Tshivhase Tea Estate. His mother worked for Venteco from 1995 until 2016. She then felt for Johannesburg to work as a caregiver.



About the Programme

The Manager of Venteco (PTY) Ltd, Ms. Beauty Msimango explained that the company started implementing the EPWP in its tea production programme in 2015. She said the objective of the EPWP in the company was to empower the community with agricultural skills especially in the tea production. Before the company implemented the EPWP, workers were hired as seasonal workers and training was done in the estate by the managers.

With the implementation of the EPWP, the company continues to provide participants with training and mentorship. “Participants are selected into the programme from a pool of poor households in the villages surrounding the Tshivhase farm,” Ms. Msimango said.

The participants receive 8 months training and earn a monthly stipend of R2607.00 – that is R1135 from the EPWP project and R 1472.00 from Venteco Company. Ms. Msimango added that the participants are registered with the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) and with Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act (Coida).



Training

Ms. Msimango said the company provided the participants with a range of South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) accredited training programmes in tea production. "The training includes skills in agriculture. The training is provided to ensure that when the participants exit the Programme, they can survive on their own by either forming cooperatives or venturing into the field of tea production. However participants who perform well whilst working for the organisation are considered for future employment opportunities in the company," she said.

She pointed out that participants were taught both theory and practical work on the production of tea.

According to the company's General Manager, Mr Toppies Topham, participants have been trained in the following activities: field maintenance, harvesting, weighing, transport, quality control, pruning, skiffing, road maintenance and boundaries. "Factory work comprised of leaf counting, withering leaf in, leaf down, processing, drying, sorting, grading, packing, bulk & value adding, food safety, maintenance, stock control and administration.



Participants

One of the participants, Mr Muvhango Nkhithitheni said: "I joined the EPWP while I was working as a seasonal worker in the company. I started in the EPWP training in August 2015. The first thing I learned was how to plant tea. The planting of tea happens in summer during the raining season. During winter I learned about harvesting and pruning"

"I also learned about how to wither tea. Once the tea has been withered it is taken to the Cutting, Rolling and Curling (TRC) machinery. The tea is then blended and refined. Another skill I was taught was the sorting of tea, which involves separating different teas into the different grades and then packaging it at the bin room," Mr Nkhithitheni explained.



He pointed out that he loved working on the farm. "The work I'm doing puts food on the table at home. The monthly wages of R2607.00 allows me to support my family," he stated.

Mr Nkhithitheni added that he is able to use the skills he has acquired from the programme to plant fruits and vegetables at his home in order to feed his family.

"Since I have undergone training, I'm currently waiting for my certificate and once I receive it, I will apply for a job at our local municipality and/or at agricultural companies in the area. I am hopeful that I will get employment because I have acquired skills such as tea producing, trading and in communications".

Another grateful participant is Ms. Mariam Ramadanga, a 51 year old woman, who joined the programme in August 2015.

"I have learned a lot about selling tea in my community. I have also learned how to operate the machinery we use on the farm. The EPWP had changed my life for the better," She added.

EPWP participants play a role in creating a safer KwaZulu Natal

By Xolani Xulu

The KwaZulu Natal Provincial Government has been working with communities in the province to provide road safety by implementing projects to create sidewalk pavements for pedestrianism in busy township roads. These sidewalk pavement projects have been implemented by the KwaZulu Natal Department of Transport using the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) labour intensive methods. The Department worked with the Community Road Safety Committee (CRSC) and the KwaDukuza Tribal Council to implement one of these sidewalk pavement projects in the Berville area.

The objective of the Bergville project was to improve the road safety of school children and of the general public in the area. The project was aimed at clearly separating the modes of traffic due to the high number of fatal accidents with scholars in particular being knocked down by taxis and other vehicles. The highly clustered number of schools within the vicinity greatly motivated the current phase and location of the project.

The project has created a total of 110 work opportunities for the people in the area.

The project scope:

- Preparation of the base
- Drainage conditions remedy
- 75mm thick concrete lined surface
- Bus/taxi bay provision
- Additional safety improvements

Safety:

Health and Safety is an ongoing process, including

- Occupational health and safety project file,
- Competent and qualified H&S representative checking the files frequently
- Interim health and safety talks (in house)

EPWP Compliance:

The project complies with EPWP requirements with respect to:

- Minimum wage
- EPWP branded safety overalls
- EPWP project information board
- Labour intensive tasks

Project output:

This project will produce 5 km of concrete lined sidewalks

Training provided:

Participants have received non- accredited on the job training and general health and safety training.

Funding Source:

The value of the project is R 7 681 873.41 and it (project) was funded through the EPWP Integrated Incentive Grant.

Selection of Process:

Eleven Grade I contractor within departmental standard adjudication selection procedure.

Materials and tools provided to participants:

Participants have received building tools and small tools

Building Tools	Small Tools
4lb Hammer	Rubber mallet
Bolt cutter	Builders buckets (10L)
Pliers	Wooden float
Concrete groove tool	Steel rakes
Concrete Edging tool	Bass broom
Joining tool	21'0L Steel drum
Builder's line	Nails 150mm
Claw Hammer	Timber (76mmx50mmx6m)
Saw Rip	Soft board (200mm)
Straight Edge	Damp proof course 150 micron (30m x 2.44m)

EPWP participants hailed for participating in refurbishment of Mdantsane Magistrate Court

By Emmanuel Jiyane and Bukiwe Mgobozi

Pictures by Khanyisa Moagi

The Deputy Minister of Public Works Mr. Jeremy Cronin officially handed over the newly refurbished Mdantsane Magistrate court to the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development on 12 July 2016. The court is located in Mdantsane outside East London in the Eastern Cape.

Deputy Minister Cronin said he was pleased that the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants played a role in the refurbishment of the court. 'During the refurbishment process, the local community benefited from the work opportunities created by the project. The local community members (EPWP participants) who worked in the project also received skills in bricklaying, tiling and other such works,' Deputy Minister Cronin said.



The refurbishment done at the court were to the value of R35 million and they included: repair and replacement of the roof coverings, waterproofing to the flat roofs, general painting to the entire building, replacement and repairs to the aluminium shopfronts, replacement of floor coverings from vinyl tiles to highly durable vinyl sheeting to all public areas, refurbishment of all toilet facilities, replacement of water and sewer pipeline, addressing stormwater reticulation challenges, facelift to the road surfaces, rebuilding of retaining walls, introduction of movement sensors throughout the building to save energy, replacement of light fittings with energy efficient fittings and power skirting, reconfiguration of certain offices to create space for personnel and general repairs to cracks throughout the building. The landscaping was also revitalized to create an environmentally friendly space for the public. Finally the project addressed the concerns regarding the bird droppings which were cleaned out and eaves closed in order to prevent the birds from entering the roof space. Deputy Minister Cronin said he

was made aware that there was a high level of absenteeism from court employees because of the previous condition of the court.

Executive Mayor of Buffalo City Mr. Alfred Mtsi said: "Today's occasion is a testimony that Mdantsane is being developed by our government. The refurbishment at the court will encourage the productivity of court workers" the executive mayor said.

The project manager Ms. Thembeke Kolele said the project encouraged women to participate in the construction sector. Of the 80 EPWP National Youth Service (NYS) participants, 15 were women. The EPWP NYS participants received training in plumbing, painting, bricklaying, tiling, plastering, paving and carpentry.

Ms. Kolele said that renovations started in April 2014 and it has taken two years to complete. "We ensured that the renovation process does not hinder the court from executing its day to day work," she added. As one of the women civil engineer in the construction sector, Ms. Kolele advised women in sector to work harder to prove themselves.

"There is nothing we can't handle as women. Women must continue to give their all in their work. This will ensure that we breakdown the stereotypes that women are just pretty faces," said added.

Participants

One of the participants trained under the EPWP NYS programme is Ms. Cacisa Binza, who thanked the government for the opportunity to participate in the programme.

"Before I joined the EPWP NYS programme I had been unemployed for a very long time. When I got this opportunity, I grabbed it with both my hands", she said.

Ms. Binza said her first day in the programme was difficult as she did a lot of manual work. "But I told myself that I will not quit. Today I'm proud to say that I have a certificate in plumbing. I am planning to use the skills I have received from the EPWP to start my own plumbing company," she said.

Tourt manager at the Mdantsane Magistrate Court Elliot said they were pleased to work in the newly renovated building.

The Chief Director of Court Operations in the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Advocate Thabo Bulube, thanked the DPW for the renovation of the court but also requested the Department to also look into court buildings in Mthatha as they are not in good state.

Deputy Minister Cronin commemorate Nelson Mandela International Day with learners of Mpondombini High School

By Michael Mokoena

Pictures by Michael Mokoena



The National Department of Public Works will continue to invest in the development of the skills of the learners of Mpondombini High School in Bizana in the Eastern Cape, the Deputy Minister of Public Works Mr. Jeremy Cronin said. Speaking at the Department's Nelson Mandela Day event at the school on 18 July 2016, Deputy Minister Cronin said that "the hard work and commitment to excellence by both the learners and the teachers at the school have made the department to continue to invest in the development of the skills of the learners at the school."

"The Department is very happy to make a contribution to your school in terms of the different things we do for you as learners. This includes the bursaries we provide to you as learners as well as all the assistance we provide to your school. These things come as a result of the good work that you do as a school," he said.



The Mpondombini High School is part of the Department of Public Works (DPW) Schools Programme. This programme is aimed at developing skills in the Built Environment. Through this programme, the Department mentors learners who are doing mathematics and science from Grade 10 through to Grade 12 level. Upon successful completion of Grade 12, learners who are part of programme are also given bursaries to further their studies in the Built Environment at universities in South Africa.

Currently there are 6 learners at Mpondombini High School who were given bursaries by the Department to study engineering at universities across South Africa.

One of the learners who are participating in the programme is Ntombiziswe Sibutha who is currently in Grade 11. "I've been with the Department of Public Works Schools Programme since last year (2015) and I have learned a lot about the Built Environment. I am honored to be part of the programme. Being part of the programme opened my eyes. I never thought that someone from the rural areas like me would grow up to be an engineer. Before this programme I used to think that engineers were people from wealthy families. But this programme changed all that – it showed me that I too can become a future engineer," Sibutha said.



Sibutha is keen on pursuing a career in the Built Environment when she goes to university.

Deputy Minister Cronin joined by the Expanded Public Works Programme National Youth Services participants and senior management from his department devoted 67 minutes of their time contributing in the betterment of the school by doing a number of activities including painting, carpentry and replacement of widow glasses. Deputy Minister Cronin also handed over laptops to the school. He urged the learners at the school to uphold the tradition of the school of achieving a matric pass rate of over 90 percent.

Turning to speak about the Nelson Mandela International Day, he urged all South Africans, especially young people to “never forget the values that our leader President Mandela stood for”.

“Mandela stood for service to our people. He taught us to make a world a better place. And that is what we are doing here (at the school). Where bad things are happening to people, whether its racism, suffering, exploitation and any form of abuse – it remains our collective duty to deal with those issues,” Deputy Minister Cronin said.

“As we celebrate the Nelson Mandela International Day, we must tackle the challenges faced by our people everywhere in the world. We must work hard to ensure that all our young people have access to quality education so that young people like you (referring to learners of Mpondombini High School) have a better life,” he added.

The Principal of the school, Mr. Edward Gabada thanked the department for celebrating the Nelson Mandela International Day with the learners at the school. “Today is a special day for the community of Bizana, particularly the learners and staff at our school. To have Deputy Minister Cronin and his team celebrating this special day with us shows that the government has not forgotten us. We thank the role played by the Department of Public Works in the upliftment of our children from this school. The bursaries that our children receive from the department have contributed in moving our children and our community forward,” he said.

The Mayor of Bizana Local Municipality, Mr. Makhaya Twabu also hailed the learners at the school. “The Mpondombini High School is one of the best performing school in the Province. The Department of Public Works’ celebration of the Nelson Mandela International Day is proof that this school is one of the good stories to tell about our Province,” he said.

The event was also attended by senior department officials including the Deputy Director General (DDG) of Corporate Services in the National Department of Public Works, Mr. Clive Mtshisa and residents of Bizana.



EPWP participants advance people's power – Deputy Minister Cronin

By Michael Mokoena

Pictures by Michael Mokoena

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants contribute in building the people's power in their communities, the Minister of Public Works Mr. Jeremy Cronin said.

Speaking to participants at Sophakama Community Based Development Care and Support Organization in Port Elizabeth on 29 July 2016, Deputy Minister Cronin said that "the work that you (EPWP participants) are doing in this community of caring for orphaned children, caring for the sickly and the elderly as well as attending to community issues contributes to your work of building people's power."



"You work with various community structures to tackle poverty and underdevelopment. You contribute in caring for the orphans as well as those who are living with HIV/Aids. Most importantly, you work with your community to create a better life for the residents of Port Elizabeth. That makes you the people's power!" Deputy Minister Cronin said to cheers from the participants.

The Deputy Minister's visit to projects in the city came as a follow up to the projects that he had launched in the area in December 2015.

About the Projects

The two projects visited by Deputy Minister Cronin are implemented through the EPWP Non State Sector which is one of the four EPWP sectors that are implementing the EPWP nationally. The projects are **Sophakama Community Based Development Care and Support Organization (Sophakama "we will rise")** and the **Masizakhe Community Development Project** and are both Non-Profit Organizations (NPO) operating in the city.

Both NPOs provide a range of community developmental programmes such as School Ambassador Programme, Early Childhood Development, Home Community Based Care, Community Gardening, Care for the

elderly and orphaned children within the communities in Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality. The NPOs are contracted for 11 month through the Independent Development Trust (IDT) to work with various communities to deliver assets and create EPWP work opportunities. The NPOs have created 330 work opportunities in Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality since December 2015. These opportunities form part of the 6-million target that EPWP seeks to reach by 2019.

Briefing Deputy Minister Cronin, the manager of Sophakama Mr. Mike Mathanzima explained that the NPO was established in 2003. "The NPO's activities include Home Base Care, Orphan and Vulnerable Children care, Early Childhood Development, Community Development, General Maintenance Work, Administration and Soup Kitchens," he explained.

Mr. Mathanzima pointed out that for the current financial year, Sophakama has been allocated a total budget of R3 889 620.00 to create a total number of 360 EPWP work opportunities. This total budget includes participants' wages, the NPO's administration costs, payment of the Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act (COIDA) as well as the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) for the participants.

Mr. Mathanzima pointed out that Sophakama was currently also implementing the EPWP Metrowide School Ambassador programme and has signed a three year performance implementation contract which commenced from 2016/17 financial year and will end on the 31 March 2017.

At the Masizakhe Community Development Project, Deputy Minister Cronin had an opportunity to work with the EPWP participants to dish out soup for the community members.

Participants

One of the participants at the Sophakama, Ms. Buyelwa Mbiko thanked the government for providing them with an opportunity to earn an income. "Before we joined this programme, most of us were sitting at home doing nothing. Today we wake up in the morning and go to work. Our dignity has been restored because the monthly stipend that we are receiving through the EPWP has afforded us an opportunity to feed our families. We thank the government for the EPWP," she said. She however urged the government to tackle the issue of stipends being paid out late in most months. "There's no specific date of the month when we are supposed to be paid and as a result we battle to pay our debts on time," Ms. Mbiko said.

The Deputy Director General for EPWP in the National Department of Public Works Mr. Stanley Henderson assured the participants that the matter of late payment of stipends will be resolved.

EPWP managers attend business development workshop

*By Puleng Tlhabi and Lerato Moeng
Pictures by Herman Makhopye*

The Expanded Public works Programme (EPWP) managers attended the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) from the 4th till the 15 of July 2016. Training was initiated by the ILO and it was aimed at providing EPWP managers with skills on how to start and sustain small businesses. The thinking was that the managers would then relay this knowledge to EPWP participants across all EPWP subprogrammes and projects countrywide.



During the workshop, Mr Gamelihle Sibanda from ILO stated that South Africa should invest more in the development and sustainability of small businesses. "The increase of successful small businesses will see the growth of the economy, which in turn will trigger the number of jobs the country needs to create. The course we are providing to the EPWP managers is one of the building blocks that will contribute to this scenario," he said.

The SIYB course is composed of four topics:

- Generate Your Business Idea (GYB)
- Start Your Business (SYB)
- Improve Your Business (IYB)
- Expand Your Business (EYB)

The Chief Director of the EPWP Partnership and Support Directorate, Ms Carmen-Joy Abrahams said the training was helpful ensuring that EPWP contributes to sustainable livelihoods. "The course will ensure that we provide participants with skills that to make a better life for themselves after they had exited from the EPWP projects".

Meanwhile on 29 August 2016, EPWP managers who had received the ILO training hosted a workshop for participants where they (managers) relayed SIYB training to participants.

The participants were divided into two groups, consisting of 12 learners per group. The participants were four co-operatives namely, Bright Minds, Sisavusiwana, Sediba Sa Lefa and Predianet Construction. All the co-operatives offer cleaning services to the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) at Pienarspoort, Eerstefabrik, Akasia Station and Soshanguve train stations. The co-operatives were contracted by the PRASA since 2015 to date. EPWP approached PRASA with the proposal to offer the training to the cleaners.

One of the participants, Ms Maria Mabena from Winterveld in Pretoria said "the training has provided us with ideas and the know-how of setting-up and running successful small businesses. I believe that when our project ends at PRASA, most of us would go out there and start our small cleaning companies and apply for contracts at various institutions," she said.

The workshop was opened by the Deputy Director-General (DDG) of EPWP in the National Department of Public Works Mr Stanley Henderson. In his address, Mr Henderson encouraged participants to learn as much as they can from the training. "Through this training, we are preparing you to be future employers. We do not want you to stay in EPWP forever; however, we want you to learn as much as you can so that when your contracts at PRASA end, you are able to set-up your small companies and find work in various institutions," he said.



EPWP participants receive training on personal financial management

By Michael Mokoena

Pictures by Herman Makhopye

In a bid to encourage the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants to use their wages wisely, the Department of Public Works (DPW) through the EPWP Unit has partnered with the Financial Services Board (FSB) to provide 5000 participants with training in personal finance management.



The Director for the EPWP Training in the National Department of Public Works Ms. Cinderella Makunike explained that the participants were selected from within existing EPWP projects in four provinces, namely Gauteng, North West, Mpumalanga and Limpopo.

"The training is aimed at improving the financial literacy of the EPWP participants by assisting them to distinguish between needs and wants, compiling a monthly budget, managing debt as well as being provided with ways to save," Ms. Makunike explained.

She clarified that the training was structured in two phases. "Phase 1 of the training is in progress from July 2016 to August while Phase 2 will be held as from 01 October 2016 to 30 November 2016. The same participants should attend Phase 1 and Phase 2 in order to receive their certificates," Ms. Makunike added.

She stated that the training being provided to the participants was non-accredited. The training material that was given to the participants for Phase 1 include: FSB "Make the Most of Your Money" Guide; FSB Information flyer as well as Make the Most of your money Budget Booklet.

The Deputy Director General of EPWP in the National Department of Public Works, Mr. Stanley Henderson also welcomed the training.

The Head of Department for Consumer Commission at FSB, Mr. Lyndwill Clarke said that they got involved with the EPWP to provide participants with knowledge on personal financial matters.

He explained that FSB had contracted Investment Wise as a Training Provider, to offer training to all the participants in the four provinces.

The Deputy Director for EPWP Training Mr. Tshifhiwa Nkhumeleni added that his directorate would also monitor the training on an on-going basis to ensure that the actual activities of the training conform to the planned and intended outcomes and timeframes. The learners will receive certificates of attendance, after successful completion of the training.

In Gauteng, the number of participants to be trained is 994. Some of the participants are placed within the Gauteng Department of Education and are working in schools in the Sedibeng District Municipality where they are implementing the EPWP's Extra School Support Project.

Participants

One of the participants, Ms. Ntswaki Seretlo said the training was providing her with knowledge on how to draw up a budget. "I have learned how to properly distinguish between my needs and my wants. Instead of using my money to buy takeaways that I can eat at one-go, I should rather use my money to buy food I can cook and eat with my family," she said. Ms. Seretlo is an extra school support programme participant at the Emmanuel Primary School in Sharpeville.

Another participant, Ms. Poppie Seoke said "the training has been helpful because it gives me tips on how to stretch my wages to last me for the whole month."



Photo Gallery



Photo Gallery

