



public works
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EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME

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EPWP Summit resolves to prioritise youth and women focused programmes

Article by Lesego Moretlwe

Pictures by Faith Nonyana



The National Department of Public Works (NDPWP) hosted the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) two day summit from 13-14 November 2018 at Saint George Hotel in Pretoria- Gauteng. The focus of the summit was about prioritization and expansion of the youth and women focused programmes such as Mass sport Participation and School Homework Assistance.

The EPWP implementing public bodies that attended this two-day Summit committed themselves to working harder, efficiently and effectively to come up with programmes that will attract young people and women into the EPWP.

The Summit was held under the theme: The Past, Present and the Future.

In his opening video recorded message for the summit, Minister of Public Works TW Nxesi urged the delegates to advance the Public Employment Programmes (PEPs) ideas and best practices as well as reflecting on how to best implement the Programmes. The Minister has also indicated that in preparation to ushering EPWP Phase 4 in 2019, consultations with the relevant stakeholders is

already underway. He said that the emphasis and focus of the recruitment of the participants should be more on women and youth. Among the dignitaries attending the summit were MEC for Public Works in the Eastern Cape, Ms Pemmy Majodina; MEC Jacob Mamabolo for Infrastructure Development Department in Gauteng and Dr Michael Samson of the International Labour organisation (ILO). Closing the Summit, the Deputy Minister of Public Works, Mr Jeremy Cronin said the expansion of youth projects was a solution to the challenge of drawing more young people into the EPWP. "We have noted that coming up and expanding innovative programmes such as Mass Sport Participation programmes, School Assistant programmes and other such programmes is vital in getting more young people to participate in the EPWP."

Deputy Minister Cronin added that training was also vital to ensure that young people are drawn into the EPWP.

The following are the EPWP 6th Summit resolutions as adopted by the delegates:

- The Summit resolves that Executive Authorities be workshopped on EPWP prescripts and strategic documents by 30 September 2019.
- The Summit resolves that protocols for EPWP phase 4 be signed by 31 October 2019 by National, Provincial Departments and Municipalities. Protocols are to be implemented and monitored.
- The Summit notes the progress made with the adoption of EPWP policies. The Summit resolves that Provincial Departments and Municipalities will develop and/or review EPWP policies to align with the EPWP phase 4 requirements by 30 September 2020.
- Public bodies need to customise and adopt the approved recruitment guidelines to ensure that fair and transparent processes are followed in the recruitment of EPWP participants.
- The Summit resolves that in the pursuance of EPWP objectives, coordinating departments and public bodies shall establish partnerships with state and non-state actors including the private sector taking into consideration commitments made at the Jobs Summit 2018.
- The Summit notes progress made in developing a national EPWP policy and resolves that it should be finalised by 30 November 2019.
- The Summit notes the lack of full compliance by public bodies to the Ministerial Determination on their EPWP projects and resolves that all Public Bodies must adopt EPWP Standard Operating Procedures in this regard.
- The Summit resolves that public bodies should set aside part of their budgets to fund the training of participants on their projects. The National Department of Public Works and all lead sector departments will continue to liaise with relevant stakeholders to source additional funding for training and ensure that quality training is provided to EPWP participants, in-line with EPWP sector training strategies.
- The Summit resolves that the National Department of Public Works, Provincial Coordinating Departments and all Lead Sector Departments will continue to provide technical support to all spheres of government to promote the implementation of the EPWP.
- 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.

- All public bodies should have EPWP targets in their Annual Performance Plan, as aligned to the Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) by 31 July 2020. Public bodies should ensure that EPWP targets are incorporated in the performance agreements of Accounting Officers and all relevant Senior Managers.
- The Summit acknowledges progress made in the establishment of EPWP Governance Structures. The national Department of Public Works, Provincial Departments and lead sector departments must continue to ensure that EPWP governance structures meet on a regular basis, at least quarterly to address key challenges with regard to programme implementation.
- The Summit resolves that joint MinMecs should be convened with the EPWP lead sector Departments.
- The Summit resolves that the Provincial EPWP Coordinating Departments ensure the mainstreaming of EPWP to the Provincial Inter-governmental Structures (Political Oversight Structures and Administrative) and the inclusion of EPWP as a standing agenda item at these structures by 30 September 2019.

Participants' testimonials

One of the EPWP participants, Mr Nkosinathi Hlophe thanked the government for providing him with an opportunity to participate in the Programme.

"I joined the EPWP in 2013 under the Mpumalanga Department of Culture, Sports and Recreation. The department had tasked me with the work of finding ways on how it (the department) could assist the artists and crafters in the province. Even though the stipend was little, it helped me to provide for my siblings since my mother had passed on," Mr Hlophe said.

He added that after exiting the year-long EPWP opportunity, he established his own arts and craft business and later branched into construction industry.



Minister of Public Works, Mr T.W. Nxesi hands over a vehicle to the community of Whittlesea in the Eastern Cape to assist in the fight against the abuse of women and children

Article by Michael Mokoena

Pictures by Khanyisa Moagi



The government, working with community members in Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and the police will continue to intensify the fight against the abuse of women and children in the country, the Minister of Public Works, Mr T.W Nxesi said. Speaking to community members in Whittlesea in the Eastern Cape on 24 November 2018, Minister Nxesi acknowledged the work done by all South Africans in the fight against the abuse of women and children in the area. The Minister stressed however that “more must be done by all of us to fight against this cancer of abuse of children and women”.

Minister Nxesi handed over a vehicle to the Nomaxabiso Non-profit Organisation and this vehicle will assist the NPO to do its work of supporting the women and children who are survivors of abuse. The vehicle handover ceremony was part of a report back session on the implementation of the commitments made by President Cyril Ramaphosa when he visited the area in June 2017.

“President Ramaphosa usithumile (sent us to you) to give this vehicle to you the people of Whittlesea which you can use as you work with the police and community in the fight against the abuse of women and children in the area. I want to also condemn the abuse of women and children in any form. We also want to assure women and children throughout the country that the government, working with all our people will continue to fight this cancer of the abuse of women and children in South Africa!”

Minister Nxesi also lashed men who were abusing women and children. “Real man don’t abuse women and children! Real men respect women and children! Real men love and protect women and children! Real men love and protect their community!”

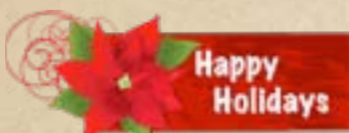
Minister Nxesi also thanked both State President Mr Cyril Ramaphosa and the Deputy President Mr David Mabuza for leading the EPWP.

The event was attended by government leadership from National, Provincial and local sphere, including MEC for Public Works Ms Pemmy Majodina and various Mayors and local Chiefs in the area. MEC Majodina thanked the leadership of President Ramaphosa for responding timely on issues raised by community members. “We are here to give you hope as the community. We give hope to women and children who have survived abuse throughout the country!”



The Chairperson of the NPO Mr Kholisi said the vehicle will assist the NPO to do its work in the rural communities surrounding Whittlesea. ““Today I just want to thank the government of the people for the good work that you have done in our community!”

The event took place on the eve of the annual 16 days of Activism against the Gender Based Violence.



Increased EPWP minimum wage compulsory for implementation by all public bodies



Article by Lesego Moretlwe

Pictures by Emmanuel Jiyane



The Deputy Director-General for EPWP, Mr. Stanley Henderson emphasised the need for keeping up with the increased minimum wage. "The increased EPWP minimum wage is compulsory to all the public bodies implementing the EPWP and there will be no excuse that will validate the payment of EPWP participants below the minimum wage and not adhering to the adjusted minimum wage as determined by the EPWP Ministerial Determination. The EPWP is a critical government initiative which makes a contribution towards a safety net to millions of South Africans who have socio-economic challenges and has the responsibility to provide for themselves and their families", said Henderson

In the midst of high unemployment rate and high poverty levels which prevail within South African communities, the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) continue to steadily improve the socio-economic conditions of poor South Africans participating in the Programme. The EPWP participants' wage rate has increased from R88.00 to R92.31 with effect from 01 November 2018. All public bodies are therefore required to ensure that the wages are adjusted timely in order to comply with the requirements.

This revised minimum wage refers to a wage rate per day and per task performed across all EPWP sectors in all spheres of government, i.e. National, Provincial and Municipal level. The EPWP minimum wage increase annually and in line with the inflation rate.

The EPWP is governed by the EPWP Ministerial Determination which is gazetted by the Minister of Labour, as a deviation from the Basic Conditions of Employment Act which outlines the working conditions of all EPWP participants who are employed across all EPWP sectors, namely: Infrastructure, Non-State Sector, Environment & Culture and Social Sectors.

According to the EPWP Ministerial Determination participants should work for 40 hours per week and they can also work on a task basis and the task sizes are governed by the average productivity of a worker in a day.



Department of public works intensify the drive towards the creation of work opportunities

Article by Michael Mokoena

Pictures by Faith Nonyana and Emmanuel Jiyane



As a commitment to the government's successful 2018 Job Summit, the National Department of Public Works (NDPW) will continue to work with all role players in the public, business, labour and community space to expand the creation of work and training opportunities through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

In its contribution to the Presidential Job Summit Framework Agreement that was signed by the government, business, community and labour organisations at the 2018 Government Job Summit in Johannesburg, the department has committed to strengthen and expand the roll-out of some of the key EPWP projects to drive the creation of work and training opportunities for the poor and unemployed South Africans.

The Deputy Director General (DDG) of EPWP in NDPW, Mr Stanley Henderson explained that some of the key EPWP projects that will be bolstered to drive the creation of work and training opportunities for the unemployed South Africans include the National Youth Service (NYS), the Youth Environmental Services (YES), the Vuk'uphile Contractor Learnership Programme and Working for Water programmes.

"There are a range of interventions we are looking at and these include ways to work with business to increase the placement of our participants in workplaces, ensure that training provided to participants is linked with the demand of the private sector as well as getting the private sector involved in our Vuk'uphile Contractor Learnership Programme by providing mentorship to the learner contractors," DDG

Henderson explained.

Mr Henderson said another valuable contribution by the department to the Job Summit Framework Agreement to drive the creation of work opportunities for the unemployed is to introduce new initiatives. "We are looking at introducing a new EPWP initiative to assist in the monitoring and evaluation of the Programme on the ground through social audits. The work opportunities created through this new initiative will be specifically for young people."

Mr Henderson added that the government will continue to work with business, labour organisations and community to find new ways to improve the EPWP.



Government in a bid to move towards digital migration programme

Article By: Lesego Moretlwe

Pictures by Emmanuel Jiyane



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Deputy Director General (DDG) Mr Stanley Henderson together with the Mayor of Lejeleputswa District Municipality Councillor Sebenzile Ngangelizwe handed over competency certificates to 50 (fifty) young people who have completed training in Set Top boxes and terrestrial aerial installation during an event which was held at Ferdi Meyer Hall in Welkom, Free State on 31 October 2018.

In addition to that, every participant received a toolbox, drill and stepladder which will enable them to perform their duties efficiently and effectively. These 50 young people who were recruited from Masilonyana; Tswelopele; Nala; Tokologo and Matjhabeng Local municipalities which form part of Lejeleputswa District Municipality in the Free State province are the first out of two thousand seven hundred and eighty (2 780) youth in the country to be trained in this course through the Department of Public Works-Expanded Public Works Programme (DPW-EPWP).

The Digital Migration Programme emanated from the World Radio Conference (WRC) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) of 2006. During the Conference a resolution was taken to move away from analogue broadcasting system to digital terrestrial television broadcasting system. In order to fully realise digital migration from analogue to digital broadcasting services, the Department of Communication (DOC) has partnered with various stakeholders including the NDPW which was tasked to train young people around the country in Satellite Terrestrial Boxes installation.



In his remarks, Mayor Sebenzile Ngangelizwe acknowledged the initiative by DOC and NDPW and indicated that it is an important milestone to address the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality especially among young people within the South African communities. The Mayor encouraged the learners to further their studies beyond the acquired training and indicated that the five mentioned local municipalities are committed to monitor progress of these young people and ensure that they get the support that they need. The Mayor has further encouraged the learners to be innovative and creative in their field of study as this will assist them to beat competition in the labour market.

The EPWP Deputy Director General (DDG) Mr Stanley Henderson indicated that as a way to empower young people who are affected by high unemployment rate in the country, "government has decided to use government spending to train young people

and enable them to participate in the labour market and be part of the industrial revolution. In achieving this, we cannot work alone as government, hence the partnership with private sector, business and communities" said Mr Henderson.

Digital Terrestrial Television installation training is accredited by the Media, Information and Communication Technologies Sector Education and Training Authority (Mict Seta) and funded by the National Department of Public Works. The training received will enable young people to establish Cooperatives and connect Set Top Boxes of the registered households in the province and also play a significant role in their possible future employment as well as being entrepreneurs.



The department of public works has trained close to 4000 EPWP participants in basic financial literacy education

Article by Michael Mokoena

Pictures by Emmanuel Jiyane

The Department of Public Works (DPW) partnered with the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) to deliver Basic Financial Literacy education to the participants of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). The purpose of these workshops is to provide, promote and support financial education, awareness and confidence regarding financial products, in order to enable the EPWP participants to make well informed financial choices to ultimately better their livelihoods.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is set to achieve its 2018-2019 target of training a total of 5 000 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants in Basic Financial Literacy. The Department has since June 2018 to date trained a total of 3 844 participants in this intervention. Deputy Director General (DDG) of the EPWP in DPW, Mr Stanley Henderson “This one-day training is aimed at assisting EPWP participants to use their hard earned wages wisely.” Although the training is not accredited, it remains critical for participants because it provides them with valuable information on financial products like insurance and investments policies. The training also capacitates them on how to save money, draw up a budget and to avoid plunging themselves into debts. It enforces a culture of saving on EPWP participants. The training is facilitated by EPWP officials, who themselves have undergone Train-the-Trainer course by the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA).



Department of Public Works train 90 officials in the Western Cape Province



Article by Maanea Maselesele

Pictures by Maanea Maselesele



The Department of Public Works has trained ninety (90) officials in the Western Cape Province about the basic implementation of the Programme (EPWP). The training was hosted by the Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works from 22 to 26 October 2018 at Nekkies Conference Centre in Worcester.

The officials who attended the training came from various provincial government departments as well as municipalities that are implementing the EPWP. At the end of the training, officials received certificates of attendance.

The training was facilitated by sector specialists within the EPWP and managers of the cross-cutting units. The objective of this training was to capacitate officials by broadening their understanding of EPWP and how it should be implemented.

The modules presented were as follows:

1. Overview of EPWP -discover the vision
2. Monitoring and Evaluation - implement standards
3. Training and Enterprise Development - shift the mind set
4. Infrastructure sector - create assets
5. Social Sector- open doors
6. Environment and Culture sector - value our planet and heritage
7. Non-State Sector - Expand frontiers
8. Final assessment-Reap rewards

In her closing remarks, the Director: EPWP Provincial Coordination and Compliance Monitoring in the Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works, Ms Cybil Maneveldt thanked the EPWP Training Unit for allowing the province to host this valuable training session.

Meanwhile, this training (Learning Programme) was also conducted in Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu-Natal from 19 to 23 November 2018. At this training session, a total of 100 officials were trained.



EPWP graduate gets permanent employment with an auto house in Mafikeng

Article by Emmanuel Jiyane

Pictures by Emmanuel Jiyane



One of the 200 young people who have been trained by the Department of Public Works (DPW) through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) has recently been appointed on a permanent position as an Artisan by the Supreme Auto (Western Ford) in Mahikeng, North West after a successful three year training in motor mechanics.

Mr Tholang Enele, 27, was recruited into the EPWP in 2014 under the EPWP Artisan Development Programme. The EPWP Artisan Development Programme is an initiative between the DPW and the Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education Training Authority (merSETA) that is aimed at training artisans. Mr Enele was exposed to both theoretical and practical training in motor mechanic.



Speaking to EPWP Communications recently, Mr Enele explained that the training that he was exposed to in the EPWP was extensive and offered him a lot of knowledge and experience in fixing and maintaining motor vehicles. "I am happy to have participated in the EPWP, I am now a qualified artisan and I thank the government for providing me with an opportunity to be a successful person that I am today. The EPWP has indeed changed my life for the better," Mr Enele said.

"The work that I have been hired to do include fixing and maintaining motor vehicles for our customers," he stated. He added that he intends to further his studies in the same field.



EPWP Participate in the International Week on Social Protection

Article by: Lesego Moretlwe

Pictures by Lindiwe Nkuna



The senior management of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) within the Department of Public Works (DPW), Deputy Director General, Mr Stanley Henderson and Acting Chief Director: Sustainable Livelihoods, Convergence and Compliance, Ms Lindiwe Nkuna embarked on an official visit to Mexico and represented the DPW at an International week on Social Protection hosted by Mexico at its capital Mexico City from the 01 - 05th October 2018. The International Week was hosted under the theme “leaving no one behind” and it was organised by the Mexican Ministry of Social Development (SEDESOL) and the German Development Cooperation as implemented by GIZ on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Other delegates who attended this session were the global partners of the Global Alliances for Social Protection and professionals from Asia, Africa and Latin America ministries who are implementing related social protection programmes.

This session was an interactive and a learning platform for delegates to share experiences and learn from each other on how best to implement the Public Employment Programmes and significantly contribute towards poverty alleviation in their respective countries. The first two days of the “week” focused on the implementation of the International Social Protection Programmes while the agenda for the last three days included a field trip to showcase the imple-

mentation of social protection programmes in Mexico and the dialogues on social protection policies and programmes.

During the closing session, Ms Nkuna was afforded an opportunity to share the South African delegation experience from participating in the week and outline the plan which will benefit the EPWP. In her remarks, Ms Nkuna highlighted that the EPWP is positioned to contribute to government’s goals of alleviating poverty, developing local communities, providing work opportunities and enhancing social protection. She further mentioned that currently, the vast majority of the unemployed have no access to social protection and that the EPWP as a Public Employment Programme (PEP) play an important role in reducing this gap. “Participating in this event was a great opportunity for the EPWP to learn from other countries on how they address the challenges related to poverty of which the biggest facing South Africa is income poverty. We hope that from all the lessons we learnt here in Mexico, we will be able to take them back home to share with our colleagues in order to strengthen the role of Public Employment Programmes towards the Social Protection agenda”. Ms Nkuna concluded.



EPWP cooperative makes a difference in the lives of communities in Ga-Masemola

By: Emmanuel Jiyane

Pictures by: Emmanuel Jiyane



IG Segwahleng Stone Crushing project is a registered Cooperative which was established in 2004 and is located in Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality in Ga-Masemola, Limpopo. This project has nine (9) Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants and was established in a response to poverty and the high unemployment rate within the community.

On a daily basis, the participants collect stones from the nearby mountain with wheel barrows and push them into a crusher machine for processing into different sizes of 24mm, 19mm and 10mm including a crusher dust



The concrete is then sold to the local community members. These participants receive a monthly wage from Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality funded through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG).

The community benefit from this cooperative as they buy concrete at a low price, at a scale of a wheel barrow and ranging from the size of the concrete (R65.00 for 24mm, 23 crusher R45.00 and crusher dust is R35.00).

The milestones and impact of the Project

- The cooperative managed to purchase the stone crushing machine through incentive grant
- The participants are receiving monthly wage from the Municipality
- The cooperative monthly profit range from R4000 to R9000.



GALLERY

Happy
Holidays

