



EPWP NEWS

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EPWP to look at providing graduates with experiential training

Article by Michael Mokoena

Pictures by Maanea Maselesele



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) will look at providing graduates in the social sector with opportunities to gain experiential training while they are still searching for employment, said the Deputy Minister of Social Development Ms Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu.

Closing the three- day EPWP Social Sector Conference held on 02-04 March 2020 in Pretoria, Deputy Minister Bogopane-Zulu said young people who have completed their Social Work studies must be given opportunities in EPWP to gain experience while looking for employment.

“We must also be able to use the EPWP to assist professionals and graduates who need to complete certain hours of practical work in order to graduate and find work,” Ms Bogopane-Zulu said.

She made it clear that while the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure must continue with its role of coordinating EPWP nationally, her Department (Social Development) will drive the implementation of EPWP projects in the social sector space.

“We are going to change the face and the design of the EPWP in the social sector space... gone are the days where our community members in the Programme have to live from hand to mouth...we

are going to restore dignity and hope in the lives of our participants,”

She said one of things the Department will prioritise is training of participants in the Programme. “We are going to provide our people with training that will lift them out of poverty and joblessness. We want to ensure that when our participants exit the EPWP, they have quality skills that they can use to find work and/or become entrepreneurs who will provide work in their communities,” Deputy Minister Bogopane-Zulu stated.

She also emphasised that her Department will work very hard to ensure that persons living with disabilities participated fully in EPWP social sector projects.

Concluding her closing address, Ms Bogopane-Zulu said her Department was currently working on exciting EPWP projects that it will soon launch. “We are working with young women in some of these exciting EPWP projects that we will be launching soon.”

The conference was attended by various public bodies that are participating in the implementation of EPWP in the social sector and was opened by the Minister of Social Development, Ms. Lindiwe Zulu. In her opening address, Minister Zulu urged government to use the EPWP to drive economic transformation in the country.



“Government must look at procuring some of its services and products from NPOs that are supported by the EPWP. This will ensure that our people – through these EPWP funded NPOs – benefit in the economy of this country,” Minister Zulu said.

Some of the key resolutions that came out of the conference include:

- Review current programme design and make necessary adjustments to encourage pathway model.
- Facilitate development of sound business plans for social sector programme.
- Formalise a convergence coordination platform with other EPWP Sectors.
- Establish the role of Infrastructure in supporting social sector projects in relation to social infrastructure.



EPWP funded training leads to permanent jobs for young women in the Northern Cape

By Michael Mokoena

Pictures by Michael Mokoena



A total seven (7) young women from Upington in the Northern Cape have found permanent work in the province's tourism sector after successfully completing an Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) funded 3-year Diploma in Professional Cookery. The seven women are part of a total of 17 EPWP participants who have successfully completed the diploma, which was offered by the Northern Cape Urban TVET College.

These young graduates are permanently employed by various hospitality institutions in the Northern Cape – which are Protea Hotel, Kalahari Lodge and Odessa Guest House in Upington.

While seven of the women found permanent work, some of them have opened their own small food companies in the area.

This 3-year training was as a result of the partnership between the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) EPWP Branch, the Northern Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism as well as the Northern Cape Rural TVET College.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony that was held recently in Upington, the Acting Head of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism Ms. Jean Wilson emphasized that the collaboration between government,



private sector and civil society was at the core of the success of the EPWP funded training. Speaking to the graduates, Ms. Wilson congratulated them for successfully completing their qualification and urged them to continue to take advantage of opportunities that exists in the tourism sector.

One graduate, Ms. Portia Mothibi, said the three-year training Programme offered them skills that they can use to lift themselves out of poverty. "As I speak today, I have opened my own food kitchen. Through the EPWP, I am now able to provide for myself and my loved ones," Ms Mothibi added.

Youth and Persons with Disabilities to be placed at the core of EPWP projects

Article by Ofentse Letswalo

Pictures by Karen Mthombeni



In a bid to provide more economic opportunities to the Youth and Persons with Disabilities (PwD), the government plans to scale-up the participation of these two groups in the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

This is in line with Deputy Minister Noxolo Kiviet's directive at the recent EPWP Colloquium on Youth and Persons with Disabilities (PwD) which was held recently in Pretoria, Gauteng. Deputy Minister Kiviet said it was vital for the EPWP to provide economic opportunities to women, the youth and persons with disabilities.

"I am pleased with the performance of the EPWP when it comes to the participation of women in the Programme. During EPWP Phase 3, the Programme created 4.5 million work opportunities and over 60 percent of those opportunities benefited women. As we implement the fourth phase of the EPWP, we must come up with pragmatic solutions to attract more young people and persons with disabilities into the Programme," Deputy Minister Kiviet said.

The EPWP Colloquium on Youth and Persons with Disabilities was facilitated by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) as well as public bodies that are participating in the implementation of the EPWP. The aim of the Colloquium was to find ways to attract more young people and persons with disabilities into the EPWP. The Colloquium came as a result of the inability of the EPWP to meet its Phase 3 targets of attracting 50% youth and 2% persons with disabilities from the overall 4.5 million work



opportunities created in the said period.

The Colloquium came up with a number of recommendations that are aimed increasing the participation of the youth and persons with disabilities in the Programme.

Below are the recommendations of the Colloquium:

1. EPWP Programme Design

- All EPWP projects and programme should include the Youth and PWD from the conceptual and design stage.
- Strengthen participation of Entrepreneurship through EPWP Enterprise Development.
- Re-engineer the Programme to accommodate Fourth industrial revolution and career-pathing.

2. Partnership

- Strengthen partnerships with disability organizations, Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs), Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Colleges/Institutions of Higher learning and private sector to ensure placement after training.

3. Mainstreaming

- All departments should strengthen units dealing with PWD and have databases of PWD or organisations. Implement Disability training for Project/ Programme Implementers/ Coordinators.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

- Profiling of communities to establish types of disabilities prevalent in areas where projects are to be implemented for inclusion in the design of a project.
- Tracking System to monitor youth participation and placement as well as identification training acquired.



EPWP project provides agricultural training to communities in Mpumalanga

Article by Karen Mthombeni
Pictures by Karen Mthombeni



IG Nursery and Vegetable Garden Assistants is a project based in Elukwatini and Amsterdam Villages under Gert Sibande District Municipality in Mpumalanga. The Department of Public Works in partnership with the provincial department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs started this project to provide locals with vital basic agricultural skills.

Upon the completion of this training programme, Participants will receive National Certificate in Plant Production Skills Programme which is accredited by the Agriculture Sector and Training Authority (AgriSETA) at NQF level 2. The Skills Programme covers the following Unit Standards:

- Understanding basic soil fertility and plant nutrition
- Pests Control
- Apply Marketing principles in agriculture

The EPWP Training Unit (in Mpumalanga Regional Office of Department of Public Works and Infrastructure) provides the required support to the Training Provider and ensures training is executed according to the set standard. The project uses environmentally friendly (organic) ways of producing vegetables.

The training will assist participants to acquire better strategies of marketing their produce as well as knowledge of how to access mainstream agriculture sector.

The Assistant Director: EPWP Training, Mr. Lesley Nthangeni, said "This training will provide valuable skills to the participants and assist them to produce their vegetables in an environmentally friendly and economically viable manner".

This Plant Production training will also assist the participants with the following:

- Skills enhancement which in turn will assist them produce their own vegetables for their personal consumption or selling
- Marketing strategies to market their produce and market opportunities
- Furthering their education in Plant Production and increase employability

Ms. Precious Dlodlu, one of the participants, thanked the EPWP for the opportunity and the new skills she has obtained from the project.



DPWI in Eastern Cape region hosts NYS graduations in Mthatha

Article by Karen Mthombeni
Pictures by Karen Mthombeni



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) in the Eastern Cape Region hosted the National Youth Service (NYS) exit workshop in Lusikisiki and in Mount Fletcher on the 5th and 6th of February 2020. A total of 47 graduates were exited at the Lusikisiki, while 40 were exited in Mount Fletcher.

Both groups of participants (Lusikisiki and Mount Fletcher) were trained in a range of artisan related skills such as tiling, carpentry, plumbing and bricklaying. The training was both theoretical and practical. During practical work, both groups participated in the renovation of both the local offices of the Department of Home Affairs as well as the Magistrates Court.

The exit workshops were led by the DPWI's Eastern Cape EPWP Programme Manager, Mr Mziwabantu Ntese who wished exiting participants well for the future. The DPWI Head Office was represented by the NYS official, Mr Philip Tambani who encouraged the participants to use the skills they have acquired to better their lives and their communities.

Various stakeholders including Department of Employment and Labour as well as the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) attended the workshop.

One of the participants from Mount Fletcher, Ms Siphokazi Dhadha said: "The skills I have acquired from this project has lifted me out of poverty... today I am doing plumbing work in my community. I thank the EPWP for giving me an opportunity to earn an income and acquire new skills."



NEDLAC visit EPWP projects in Mpumalanga

Article by Michael Mokoena
Pictures by Brian Dlamini



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is important as it drive the socioeconomic development of communities, Mr. L Qhakaza, an official from National Economic Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) said. He was speaking during the two day visit to EPWP projects in Mpumalanga recently.

Members of the Nedlac's Development Chambers expressed confidence in the EPWP as one of the flagship short to medium term government programme that provides skills and income support to the poor and unemployed South Africans.

The Nedlac delegation was led by Mr. L Qhakaza and they visited four EPWP projects in the course of two days. At the end of the visit, the Nedlac delegation called upon the government to use the EPWP to assist young graduates to acquire experience so that they can easily get jobs.

The delegation also urged government to provide EPWP participants with training that can assist participants to find work after exiting the Programme.

The delegation visited the following projects:

Natataise Lowveld Trust NPO – the NPO is located in Kabokweni and it provides a comprehensive Early Childhood Development service to rural disadvantaged children in the area.

Sector Based Skills Development Programme – the project is implemented by the Ehlanzeni District Municipality and they work with various public and private sector institution to assist young graduates with on-the-job practical training.

National Youth Service (NYS) – the project provides artisan

skills such as plumbing, carpentry, electrical works and painting to young people in the area. The 12 month building maintenance project provides young people with on-the-work-training and it is a partnership between the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure as well as the Mpumalanga's Roads and Transport Department.

Nursery and Vegetables Garden Assistant in Elukwatini Environmental Centre – the project is implemented by the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture Rural Development Land & Environmental Affairs and it is aimed at addressing food security by involving members of the community to access land at Elukwatini Environmental Centre for the purposes of undertaking primary agriculture.



GALLERY



