



DPWI and AgriSETA collaborate on R66 million Artisan Development Training

Article by Mandy Rutgers and Kgomotso Mathuloe

Pictures by Emmanuel Jiyane



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) in partnership with Agriculture Sector Education and Training Authority (AgriSETA) will provide Artisan Development Training to 400 Expanded Public Works Programme EPWP participants.

The R66 million Artisan Development Programme which is funded by the National Skills Fund (NSF) of the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) will be implemented over a multi-year period. The training will commence in the current financial year (2020/2021) until 2023 or until completion of the Project - whichever comes first. In addition to that, there will also be a provision for skills programmes and learnerships. "We partnered with AgriSETA, as they previously implemented a similar project and we were satisfied with the results. The department is committed to develop and nurture scarce skills as part of DPWI on-going transformation process of the built industry", acting Director-General of the DPWI Mr Imtiaz Fazel stated.

AgriSETA will provide technical support and manage the implementation of the project to ensure that qualifications in technical fields such as bricklaying, plumbing, carpentry, air-conditioning and Refrigeration mechanic.

"This is no small feat for us and we are honoured as AgriSETA to perform the obligations of the Project implementation, which includes administration and reporting, as well as the procurement and contracting of relevant training providers, which will be done in consultation with DPWI to ensure clear guidelines and transparency", said the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of AgriSETA, Mr Zenzele Myeza.

AgriSETA will also be responsible for sourcing relevant workplaces for all 400 trainees as well as to certify all accreditation requirements of training and appointment of service delivery agents for the duration of the project.

AgriSETA will ensure joint monitoring with DPWI, continuous quality assurance, verification and the timeous completion of certification of successful participants.

"This is indeed an empowering collaboration, which is going to benefit many unemployed people and will increase the much needed essential skills that is required in all sectors of the country", said Myeza.

The National Skills Fund's Executive Officer, Mr Mvuyisi Macikama said that this project is aligned with the National Skills Development Strategy (NSDS) III and the National Skills Development Plan 2030 which prioritises artisan development programmes to address technical skills shortage. This programme is also in line with the envisaged catalytic role of the NSF, which is to drive change towards partnership-based programmes and contribute significantly to raising the low base of education and training in the country, guided by government strategies and policies of redress and equity.



Launch of Expanded Public Works Programme month in Queenstown, Eastern Cape

Article and Pictures by Vuyokazi Mbanjwa



The MEC of Public Works and Infrastructure, Mr Babalo Madikizela launched the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) month at Thobi Kula Indoor Centre in Queenstown, Eastern Cape on 15 September 2020. He said that EPWP is critical in alleviating poverty, reducing unemployment by creating work opportunities in Eastern Cape.

Another speaker during the launch included the Chief Director responsible for EPWP, Mr Zukhanye Satyi who presented on Performance of EPWP in the Province. In his presentation, he encouraged Municipalities to meet EPWP targets and report on EPWP Monitoring and Evaluation Reporting system.

One of the Participants of the Youth Brigade Programme, Ms Fezeka Notoko thank government of Eastern Cape for affording them this opportunity and said that Uyisusile ikati eziko, meaning that through this programme government has alleviated hunger and ensured that there is food on the table.

The launch of EPWP month coincided with the launch of the Covid-19 Youth Brigade Programme is aimed at creating 1000 work opportunities for youth in Eastern Cape and their duties will entail: maintaining Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) requirements, screening and recording all personnel and clients entering state buildings, maintenance of hygiene in all state building and disinfect and fumigate state buildings.

Expanded Public Works Programme contributes to the fight against Covid-19 in Mpumalanga

Article by: Lesego Moretlwe
Pictures by Lesego Moretlwe



Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and the Independent Development Trust (IDT) in partnership with the Department of Health are playing a vital role in containing the spread of the virus through the community involvement.

The DPWI has therefore, entered into contract with Non Profit Organisations (NPOs) to assist with containing the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic and one of those NPOs is Impilo Community centre which is based at Vaalbank-Libangeni within the jurisdiction of Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality in Mpumalanga. The project manager of Impilo Community Centre, Mr Joe Matlaila is an energetic and enthusiastic individual who is leading a team of 75 EPWP participants who are employed in different schools in Mpumalanga to provide Education services about Covid-19.

Mr Matlaila has outlined the participant's daily duties as to ensure that social distancing regulations are followed, washing and sanitising of hands is done frequently as well as using thermometers to measure and record temperature levels of learners and educators in the morning when they enter the schools premises and in the afternoon when they leave the premises.

Prior to their assumption of duties, the participants received relevant training offered by Dr JS Moroka Environmental Health practitioner and the official of the Department of Health respectively. Participants were also provided with protective clothing to ensure safety when executing their duties.

These duties are carried out according to the DPWI Covid-19 guiding framework which constitute guidelines on the implementation of the response measure and must be strictly adhered to. These Guidelines are linked to (1) the Ministerial Determination for EPWP 2012, Covid-19 regulatory documents inclusive of, (2) the Disaster Management Act, No 57 of 2002.

The schools which are benefiting from these services are:

- Ukukhanya Junior Secondary
- Ukuphumula Combined Primary
- Nkosabo Primary School
- Libangeni Sec
- Mbongo Primary
- Masana Primary
- Mbuduma Primary
- Emfundweni Primary School
- Ekuphakameni Primary
- Hlalakahle High School

The participants also assist the community with adherence to the Covid-19 regulations such as wearing of masks, social distancing, health screening, temperature scanning and promote cleanliness through promotion of regular handwashing and sanitising as required. The participants encourage the community to stay at home and only go out when it is necessary and refer those with the signs and symptoms of Covid-19 such as flu to health practitioners.

Before joining the EPWP, the participants were providing Home Community Base services such as patients tracing for treatment support, referrals, health promotion, HIV and AIDS support group formation and facilitation as well as food gardening including after-care programmes and golden games promotions.

"The most important contributions that we give to the community is education, awareness and promotion of healthy living. The EPWP has contributed to my personal development and that has empowered me to work for my community and advocate for the community benefits" says Mr Matlaila.

Another school where the EPWP participants are assisting with containing the spread of Covid-19 is Mbongo primary school where they perform duties such as

- Scanning, sanitising and recording of all staff and learners temperature in the morning and afternoon
- Help learners to practice social distancing in the morning when they enter the school premises, during lunch break and after school in the afternoon.
- Help to serve lunch to learners during the Covid-19 school holidays.



EPWP assist in the fight against cross border crime in KwaZulu-Natal

Article by Masego Maselwanyane

Picture by the KZN Community Safety and Liaison

BUDGET VOTE

"COLLECTIVELY BUILDING A CRIME FREE PROVINCE"



FIGHTING CROSS-BORDER CRIME

"Our strategy is targeted towards fighting crimes at borders that we share with neighbouring countries i.e. Mozambique, Swaziland and Lesotho"

"Interventions that have been put in place are the upgrade of the Manguzi Police Station, installation of a satellite police station in Skhemelele and increasing patrol vehicles"

"Another catalytic programme is the construction of the New Jersey Barrier wall between the South Africa and Mozambican border"



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The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Community Safety and Liaison is working together with community members in combating cross border crime in the province. Through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), the Department has brought in community volunteers to assist in tackling crime along the South African and Mozambique border in the province. The crimes that are being committed include vehicle theft and smuggling.

The Department worked with traditional leaders in the areas along the border, the Umhlabuyalingana Local Municipality, Emanguzi Community Policing Forum and the Emanguzi/Mbazwana Youth Desk to recruit community members to participate in this crime prevention project. The recruitment of members of the public into this project has strengthened the collaboration of law enforcement agencies and communities in crime fighting initiatives. The participants receive a monthly wage of R2185.

Participants are responsible for:

- Observing surroundings to spot suspected stolen/hijacked vehicles hidden in bushes alongside the border
- Gather information on recovered stolen/hijacked vehicles and vehicles that have crossed the border
- Conduct patrol and crime awareness at schools along the border line as well as discouraging participation of learners in cross border crime.

Training

Prior to commencement of their duties, participants were offered intensive training to ensure that they become effective and efficient in carrying out their duties.

Collaboration with other stakeholders

The Participants work with various law enforcement agencies such as the South African National Defence Force, the South African Police Service, Tembe Traditional Leadership and Umhlabuyalingana Community Against Crime.

Highlights of the project

The participants have assisted the law enforcement agencies to recover stolen vehicles in the province.

The EPWP has a huge role to play in driving up employment post COVID-19

Article by Michael Mokoena

Pictures by ILO



Another speaker during the EPWP Webinar was the International Labour Organization's Michael Samson, who argued that EPWP needs to strengthen its role in supporting government's long-term strategic goals by strengthening its health care capacity, as well as assisting those who have lost their jobs as a result of the health pandemic.

He said assets and services EPWP creates can reduce medium and long term costs of the pandemic and better enable South Africa to tackle both this pandemic and future crises.

Samson said the EPWP would have to adapt some of the existing projects to respond to the COVID-19 risks and expand some of the EPWP projects to deliver more opportunities.

The last presenter for the day was Lawrence Siddhartha Benninger of the Centre for Development Studies and Activities (CDSA) in India. In his presentation he emphasized the importance of infusing technology into the EPWP to assist government to provide speedy assistance to community members affected by COVID-19.

He said that EPWP participants could use technology to collect data relating to social protection needs and COVID-19 health threats which would assist government to act swiftly and provide the required assistance Benninger added. He concluded by saying that government would also have to embark on up skilling participants to ensure that they are able to effectively utilise technology to collect the required COVID-19 related data.

The EPWP Webinar was hosted by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) in partnership with the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The COVID-19 health pandemic will intensify the demand for Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) work in the country, said the Commissioner in the National Planning Commission, Dr. Miriam Altman.

Speaking at the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure's EPWP Webinar on the repositioning of Public Employment Programmes (PEPs) in the era of COVID-19 and Economic Downturn which was held in July 2020, Dr Altman said there were many work opportunities that EPWP will generate during and post COVID-19.

She said both Social and Non-State sectors were likely to drive up EPWP work opportunities especially with programmes such as early childhood development and social entrepreneurship.

Dr. Altman said that during COVID-19 government may also drive up EPWP employment by buying COVID-19 goods, such as face masks from Community-Based Organisations that provide work opportunities to the unemployed.

She pointed out that for the EPWP to successfully scale up employment opportunities during and post COVID-19, the Programme would have to address critical barriers to expansion and further emphasised that scaling up EPWP work opportunities will require commitment to resolving institutional challenges and outstanding debates with competing interests.



GALLERY

